

तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय

SANTINIKETAN
VISWA BHARATI
LIBRARY

922.7:42

W 516

EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY
EDITED BY ERNEST RHYS

BIOGRAPHY

THE JOURNAL OF THE
REV. JOHN WESLEY, A.M.
IN FOUR VOLS. ✻ VOL. I.
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
THE REV. F. W. MACDONALD

THE PUBLISHERS OF *EVERYMAN'S*
LIBRARY WILL BE PLEASED TO SEND
FREELY TO ALL APPLICANTS A LIST
OF THE PUBLISHED AND PROJECTED
VOLUMES TO BE COMPRISED UNDER
THE FOLLOWING TWELVE HEADINGS:

TRAVEL ♣ SCIENCE ♣ FICTION
THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY
HISTORY ♣ CLASSICAL
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
ESSAYS ♣ ORATORY
POETRY & DRAMA
BIOGRAPHY
ROMANCE



IN TWO STYLES OF BINDING, CLOTH,
FLAT BACK, COLOURED TOP, AND
LEATHER, ROUND CORNERS, GILT TOP.

LONDON : J. M. DENT & CO.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

JOHN WESLEY'S first publication was a volume of daily prayers, 1733. The number of original works assigned to him by his bibliographer, Green, is 233; works in which he shared with his brother, 30; works extracted or edited by him, 100.

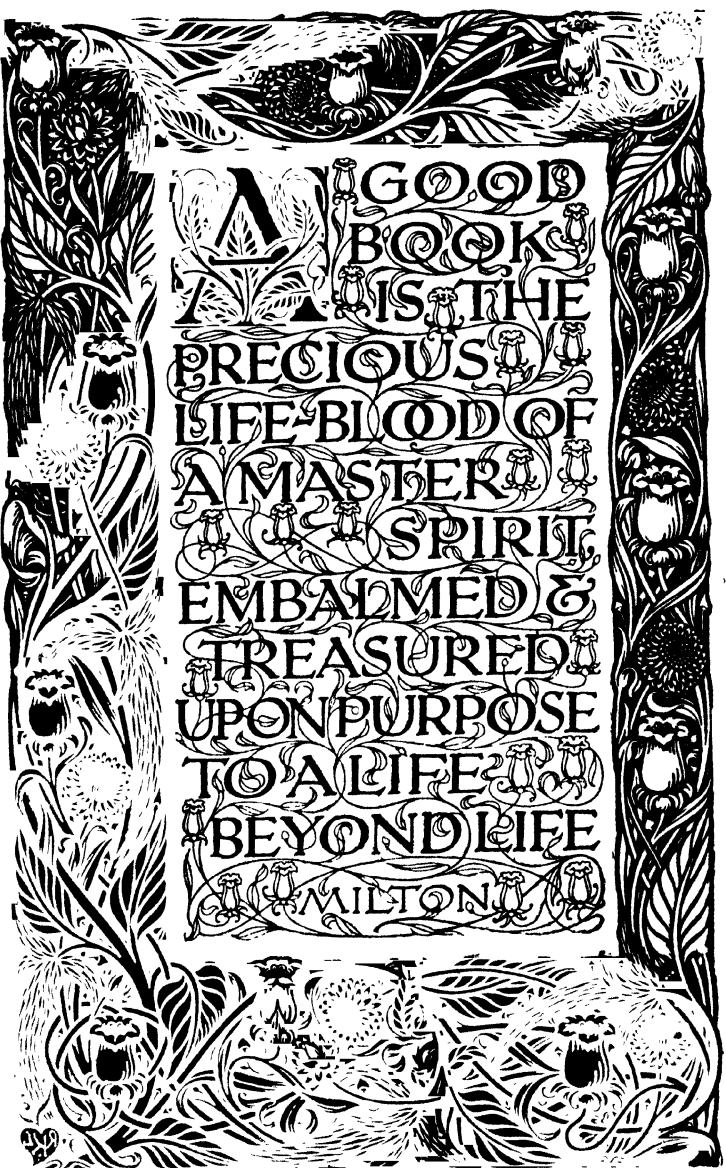
"Sermons on Several Occasions," 1st edition of first four volumes, 1746-1760; 2nd edition, 1788; vols. v. to viii., 1788. These include the sermons which had appeared in the "Arminian Magazine," which was started by Wesley in 1778, and which has been carried on since, being now known as the "Wesleyan Methodist Magazine."

Extracts from his "Journal" were published at intervals by Wesley from 1738 or 1739 to 1791, the first extract being issued on his return from Georgia, and the latest when he was in his 88th year; abridged edition, by H. P. Parker, with introduction by Hugh Price Hughes, 1902, 1905; another abridged edition (preface signed N.C.), 1903; popular edition, with introduction by Rev. W. L. Watkinson, 1903, etc.

During the years 1737 to 1787 John Wesley published, in some cases with his brother Charles as co-author or co-editor, twenty-three anthologies and hymnal. Their collected poetical works, with the latest corrections by the authors, were edited by G. Osborn, D.D., 1872.

Collected works. Compiled by Wesley himself, 32 vols., 1771-1774; 2nd edition, 17 vols. ed. by Rev. J. Benson, 1809-13; 3rd ed., 14 vols. octavo, ed. by Rev. T. Jackson, 1829-31; same edition, in 15 vols. duodecimo, with a life by the Rev. J. Beecham, D.D., 1856.

The best lives of John Wesley are those by Hampson, 1791; Coke and Moore, 1792; Whitehead, 1791-3; Southey, 1820; Moore (revised edition), 1824-5; Watson, 1831; Tyerman, 1870-71. See also Dr. Rigg's "Living Wesley," 1875; Isaac Taylor's "Wesley and Methodism," 1851; G. W. Taylor's "Wesley and the Anglo-Catholic Revival,"

A highly detailed, black and white decorative border surrounds the central text. It features intricate floral motifs, including roses, lilies, and various leaves, intertwined with scrolling vines. The design is symmetrical and fills the entire page around the text block.

A GOOD
BOOK IS THE
PRECIOUS
LIFE-BLOOD OF
A MASTER
SPIRIT
EMBALMED &
TREASURED
UPON PURPOSE
TO A LIFE
BEYOND LIFE
MILTON

The JOURNAL
of the Rev. JOHN
WESLEY A.M.
IN 4 VOLUMES
VOLUME I

EVERY
MAN
I WILL
GO
WITH
THEE
BE THY
GUIDE



IN THY
MOST
NEED
TO GO
BY
THY
SIDE

LONDON: PUBLISHED
by J. M. DENT & CO
AND IN NEW YORK
BY E. P. DUTTON & CO

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION, - - - - -	ix
BIBLIOGRAPHY, - - - - -	xv
EXTRACT FROM THE REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY'S JOURNAL :	
Preface, - - - - -	i
Letter to Mr. Morgan, Sen. - - - - -	}
On the Death of Mr. Morgan, of Christ Church, - - -	13
JOURNAL :	
I. FROM OCTOBER 14, 1735, TO FEBRUARY 1, 1737-8, - - -	15
II. FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1737-8, TO HIS RETURN FROM GERMANY, - - -	78
III. FROM AUGUST 12, 1738, TO NOVEMBER 1, 1739, - - -	148
IV. FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1739, TO SEPTEMBER 3, 1741, - - -	242
V. FROM SEPTEMBER 3, 1741, TO OCTOBER 27, 1743, - - -	337
VI. FROM OCTOBER 27, 1743, TO NOVEMBER 17, 1746, - - -	447

INTRODUCTION

DURING Wesley's life, and for some years after his death, his countrymen, speaking generally, did not care to claim him as in any sense a national possession. They were quite content to leave him in the private possession of his followers, excellent people, doubtless, but not very interesting or influential. But time is a great readjuster of perspective. The point of view changes; the relative dimensions of men and things alter; great reputations decline and lowly ones enlarge; what was once central in the field of vision passes well nigh out of sight, while the previously obscure moves into the foreground. And this is accomplished, for the most part, not in a definite and formal way, but gradually, we hardly know how; for the process is one of unconscious movement in innumerable minds.

There can be no doubt as to the change that has taken place in the general estimate of Wesley. It is no longer left to his followers to praise him. He is held in honour by men of all forms of belief, and all schools of thought. His name is now a national, not a denominational glory. He is recognised as belonging to that foremost few in whom the best qualities of our race have found expression. His century produced no better man, and few greater men than he. It may be said of him, "We know him now." His character and his work stand out large and clear, and when the one or the other is criticized, it is with that kind of criticism which is in itself a tribute of respect.

Though Wesley was a copious writer—his collected works occupy fifteen octavo volumes—it was not the literary instinct that drew him to authorship. To write a

book was never with him an end in itself. It was always associated with some call or requirement of the work to which his life was given. Notwithstanding his scholarly tastes and poetic gifts, it is pretty certain that he would never have written either prose or verse unless by so doing he thought he could serve the great ends that were ever before his mind. This should be taken into account when judging his literary labours as a whole.

The commencement of his *Journal* was the result of an impression received in his early days at Oxford from reading Bishop Taylor's *Holy Living*. It determined him, "to take a more exact account than I had done before of the manner wherein I spent my time, writing down how I had employed every hour." This rigorous plan was followed for no less than fifteen years, a striking illustration of Wesley's firmness of purpose and devotion to method. But happily it was not to be continued on these lines to the end. From the time when he sailed for Georgia, October, 1735, being then in his thirty-third year, Wesley's *Journal* becomes a record of his travels, studies, and labours, of varied adventures, and intercourse with persons of all kinds, of his views on questions practical and speculative; and, generally, what had been mainly a religious time-table broadens into an autobiography.

But the religious motive which led him to begin to keep a journal was still his chief motive in continuing it. His career had widened in an altogether unexpected way. He was no longer a college tutor, the religious guide of a handful of University men. He was an evangelist, travelling the country and preaching to vast congregations; a spiritual leader forming Societies throughout the length and breadth of the land for whose administration and teaching he must provide. And his new vocation brought with it controversy, conflicts, and persecution. His more reputable opponents attacked his theology and denounced his procedure. Less scrupulous foes assailed his character and

motives—he was a Papist, a Jacobite, a polygamist, and many things beside. The mob in a score of towns broke up his congregations, beat his people and stoned the preacher.

Wesley's attitude towards his opponents was determined by their character and degree. To those who would listen he addressed *Appeals* and *Remonstrances*; to those who accused him of various crimes and misdemeanours he knew how to reply—when he replied at all—in a good-tempered but sufficiently pungent manner; and as for the mob, he faced it, and broke its noisy courage again and again by his gentle, fearless presence.

It now occurs to him to make his *Journal* an *Apologia*, in which those who have candour and patience may read his own statement of his principles and of his aims. He will give an account of himself, of his manner of life and his religious experience. He will write his own history and that of the work in which he is engaged. The *Journal* of his life shall be his answer to those who are perplexed or angered by what he is doing. He would not have that which is good to be evil spoken of, or be condemned unheard. He therefore sets himself to give such an account of his stewardship as it is possible to present to one's fellow-men.

There was, moreover, an ever-increasing number of people who looked to him as their leader, we might say, their father. They were exposed to contempt, often to rough handling, from those around them. They needed comfort and encouragement and further instruction. It was only at rare intervals they could hear his voice, and be cheered by his presence. It would be good for them to read of his journeyings and preachings, to know that he was not cast down, but strong and hopeful, and that the good work prospered. They should learn from his *Journal* his best thoughts on Christian doctrine, and his counsels and exhortations respecting Christian life. By means of it

his people should know him in the whole round of his life and labours, and understand the spirit and meaning of the order of things in which they and he were found, he as leader, they as brethren and companions.

With such objects in view Wesley published about 1739 *An Extract of the Rev. Mr. John Wesley's Journal, from his embarking for Georgia, to his return to London*. Similar *Extracts* appeared at irregular intervals during the remainder of his life, a period of fifty years, and the *Journal* as we now have it consists of no fewer than twenty parts or instalments. In *Lloyd's Evening Post* for January 20, 1772, appears the following notice of one of these issues :

"Those who expect to find in this *Journal* only the peculiar tenets of Methodism will be agreeably disappointed, as they are intermixed with such occasional reflections on men and manners, on polite literature, and even on polite places, as prove that the writer is endued with a taste well cultivated both by reading and observation; and above all with such a benevolence and sweetness of temper, such an enlarged, liberal, and truly protestant way of thinking towards those who differ from him, as clearly show that his heart at least is right, and justly entitle him to that candour and forbearance which, for the honour of our common religion, we are glad to find he now generally receives."

Wesley's *Journal* is still his best biography. It is, as Montaigne said of his *Essays*, *un livre de bonne foi*, written in perfect honesty and good faith. It reveals his limitations and defects, but it shows him to be a man of rare powers, of unsurpassed zeal and devotion, and of the loftiest Christian character. One may wish that he had allowed himself a greater variety of topics, for, as Dr. Johnson said of him, "He can talk well on any subject"; that he had said more respecting the public and social life of his time, and the persons whom he met. But he is not

a St. Simon, writing the inner history of a court; nor a Horace Walpole, chronicling the scandals and small talk of Mayfair and of Twickenham. He is John Wesley, and we must take him as such, preacher of the Gospel and leader of men, to whom it was given in a sensual and irreligious age to revive the Church and awaken the people, thus bestowing great benefits not only on his own generation but on those that followed.

1905.

F. W. MACDONALD.

AN EXTRACT
OF THE
REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY'S JOURNAL,
FROM HIS EMBARKING FOR GEORGIA, TO HIS
RETURN TO LONDON.

What shall we say then? That Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by FAITH, but as it were by the works of the law.
Rom. ix. 30, 31.

I.

PREFACE.

1. It was in pursuance of an advice given by Bishop Taylor, in his "Rules for Holy Living and Dying," that, about fifteen years ago, I began to take a more exact account than I had done before, of the manner wherein I spent my time, writing down how I had employed every hour. This I continued to do, wherever I was, till the time of my leaving England. The variety of scenes which I then passed through, induced me to transcribe, from time to time, the more material parts of my diary, adding here and there such little reflections as occurred to my mind. Of this journal thus occasionally compiled, the following is a short extract: it not being my design to relate all those particulars, which I wrote for my own use only; and which would answer no valuable end to others, however important they were to me.

2. Indeed I had no design or desire to trouble the world with any of my little affairs; as it cannot but appear to every impartial mind, from my having been so long "as one that heareth not," notwithstanding

2 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

the loud and frequent calls I have had, to answer for myself. Neither should I have done it now, had not Captain Williams's affidavit, published *as soon as he had left England*, laid an obligation upon me, to do what in me lies, in obedience to that command of God, "Let not the good which is in you be evil spoken of." With this view I do at length "give an answer to every man that asketh me a reason of the hope which is in me," that in all these things "I have a conscience void of offence towards God and towards man."

3. I have prefixed hereto a letter wrote several years since, containing a plain account of the rise of that little society in Oxford, which has been so variously represented. Part of this was published in 1733; but without my consent or knowledge. It now stands as it was wrote; without any addition, diminution, or amendment; it being my only concern herein nakedly to "declare the thing as it is."

4. Perhaps my employments of another kind may not allow me to give any farther answer to them, who "say all manner of evil of me falsely, and seem to think that they do God service." Suffice it, that both they and I shall shortly "give an account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."

LETTER TO MR. MORGAN, SEN.

SIR,

Oxon, Oct. 18, 1730.

THE occasion of my giving you this trouble is of a very extraordinary nature. On Sunday last I was informed (as no doubt you will be ere long) that my brother and I had killed your son: that the rigorous fasting which he had imposed upon himself, by our advice, had increased his illness and hastened his death. Now though, considering it in itself, "it is a very small thing with me to be judged by man's judgment;" yet as the being thought guilty of so mischievous an imprudence might make me the less able to do the work I came into the world for, I am obliged to clear myself of it, by observing to you, as I have done to others, that your son left off fasting about a year and a half since, and that it is not yet half a year since I began to practise it.

I must not let this opportunity slip of doing my part towards giving you a juster notion of some other particulars, relating both to him and myself, which have been industriously misrepresented to you.

In March last he received a letter from you, which not being able to read, he desired me to read to him; several of the expressions whereof I perfectly remember, and shall do, till I too am called hence. I then determined, that if God was pleased to take away your son before me, I would justify him and myself, which I now do with all plainness and simplicity, as both my character and cause required.

In one practice for which you blamed your son, I am only concerned as a friend, not as a partner. That therefore I shall consider first: your own account of it was in effect this: "He frequently went into poor people's houses in the villages about Holt, called their children together, and instructed them in their duty to God, their neighbour, and themselves. He likewise explained to them the necessity of private as well as public prayer, and provided them with such forms as was best suited to their several capacities: and being well apprized how

much the success of his endeavours depended on their good will towards him, to win upon their affections, he sometimes distributed among them a little of that money which he had saved from gaming, and the other fashionable expenses of the place." This is the first charge against him; upon which all that I shall observe is, that I will refer it to your own judgment, whether it be fitter to have a place in the catalogue of his faults, or of those virtues, for which he is now "numbered among the sons of God."

If all the persons concerned in "that ridiculous society, whose follies you have so often heard repeated," could but give such a proof of their deserving the glorious title¹ which was once bestowed upon them, they would be contented that their lives too should be counted madness, and their end thought to be without honour. But the truth is, their title to holiness stands upon much less stable foundations; as you will easily perceive when you know the ground of this wonderful outcry, which it seems England is not wide enough to contain.

In November 1729, at which time I came to reside at Oxford, your son, my brother, myself, and one more, agreed to spend three or four evenings in a week together. Our design was to read over the classics, which we had before read in private, on common nights, and on Sunday some book in divinity. In the summer following Mr. M. told me he had called at the gaol, to see a man who was condemned for killing his wife; and that, from the talk he had with one of the debtors, he verily believed it would do much good, if any one would be at the pains of now and then speaking with them. This he so frequently repeated, that on the 24th of August 1730, my brother and I walked with him to the castle. We were so well satisfied with our conversation there, that we agreed to go thither once or twice a week; which we had not done long, before he desired me to go with him to see a poor woman in the town who was sick. In this employment too, when we came to reflect upon it, we believed it would be worth while to spend an hour or two in a week, provided the minister of the parish, in which any such person was, were not against it. But that we might not depend wholly on our own judgments, I wrote an account to my father of our whole design;

¹The Holy Club.

withal begging that he, who had lived seventy years in the world, and seen as much of it as most private men have ever done, would advise us whether we had yet gone too far, and whether we should now stand still, or go forward?

Part of his answer, dated September 21, 1730, was this:—

“And now as to your own designs and employments, what can I say less of them than *valde probo*:¹ and that I have the highest reason to bless God, that he has given me two sons together at Oxford, to whom he has given grace and courage to turn the war against the world and the devil, which is the best way to conquer them. They have but one more enemy to combat with, the flesh; which if they take care to subdue by fasting and prayer, there will be no more for them to do, but to proceed steadily in the same course, and expect the crown which fadeth not away. You have reason to bless God, as I do, that you have so fast a friend as Mr. M., who I see in the most difficult service is ready to break the ice for you. You do not know of how much good that poor wretch who killed his wife has been the providential occasion. I think I must adopt Mr. M. to be my son, together with you and your brother Charles; and when I have such a ternion to prosecute that war, wherein I am now *miles emeritus*, I shall not be ashamed, when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

“I am afraid lest the main objection you make against your going on in the business with the prisoners may secretly proceed from flesh and blood. For ‘who can harm you if you are followers of that which is so good;’ and which will be one of the marks by which the Shepherd of Israel will know his sheep at the last day?—Though if it were possible for you to suffer a little in the cause, you would have a confessor’s reward. You own none but such as are out of their senses would be prejudiced against your acting in this manner; but say, ‘these are they that need a physician.’ But what if they will not accept of one who will be welcome to the poor prisoners? Go on then, in God’s name, in the path to which your Saviour has directed you, and that tract wherein your father has gone before you! For when I

¹ I greatly approve.

6 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

was an under graduate at Oxford, I visited those in the castle there, and reflect on it with great satisfaction to this day. Walk as prudently as you can, though not fearfully, and my heart and prayers are with you.

"Your first regular step is to consult with him (if any such there be) who has a jurisdiction over the prisoners, and the next is, to obtain the direction and approbation of your Bishop. This is Monday morning, at which time I shall never forget you. If it be possible, I should be glad to see you all three here in the fine end of the summer. But if I cannot have that satisfaction, I am sure I can reach you every day, though you were beyond the Indies. Accordingly, to Him, who is every where, I now heartily commit you, as being

"Your most affectionate and joyful father."

In pursuance of these directions, I immediately went to Mr. Gerard, the Bishop of Oxford's Chaplain, who was likewise the person that took care of the prisoners when any were condemned to die: (at other times they were left to their own care:) I proposed to him our design of serving them as far as we could, and my own intention to preach there once a month, if the Bishop approved of it. He much commended our design, and said he would answer for the Bishop's approbation, to whom he would take the first opportunity of mentioning it. It was not long before he informed me he had done so, and that his Lordship not only gave his permission, but was greatly pleased with the undertaking, and hoped it would have the desired success.

Soon after, a gentleman of Merton College, who was one of our little company, which now consisted of five persons, acquainted us that he had been much rallied the day before for being a member of *the holy club*; and that it was become a common topic of mirth at his college, where they had found out several of our customs, to which we were ourselves utter strangers. Upon this I consulted my father again, in whose answer were these words:—

Dec. 1.

"This day I received both yours, and this evening, in the course of our reading, I thought I found an answer that would be more proper than any I myself could dictate; though since it will not be easily translated, I send it in the original. Πολλη μοι Καυχησις υπερ υμων.

πεπληρωμαι τη παρακλησει, υπερπερισσευομαι τη χαρα.¹ (2 Cor. vii. 4.) What would you be? Would you be angels? I question whether a mortal can arrive to a greater degree of perfection, than steadily to do good, and for that very reason patiently and meekly to suffer evil. For my part, on the present view of your actions and designs, my daily prayers are, that God would keep you humble; and then I am sure that if you continue 'to suffer for righteousness sake,' though it be but in a lower degree, 'the Spirit of God and of glory' shall, in some good measure, 'rest upon you.' Be never weary of well-doing: never look back, for you know the prize and the crown are before you: Though I can scarce think so meanly of you, as that you would be discouraged with 'the crackling of thorns under a pot.' Be not high-minded, but fear. Preserve an equal temper of mind under whatever treatment you meet with from a not very just or well-natured world. Bear no more sail than is necessary, but steer steady. The less you value yourselves for these unfashionable duties, (as there is no such thing as works of supererogation,) the more all good and wise men will value you, if they see your actions are of a piece; or, which is infinitely more, He by whom actions and intentions are weighed, will both accept, esteem, and reward you."

Upon this encouragement we still continued to meet together as usual; and to confirm one another, as well as we could, in our resolutions, to communicate as often as we had opportunity; (which is here once a week;) and do what service we could to our acquaintance, the prisoners, and two or three poor families in the town. But the outcry daily increasing, that we might show what ground there was for it, we proposed to our friends, or opponents, as we had opportunity, these, or the like questions:—

I. Whether it does not concern all men of all conditions to imitate Him, as much as they can, "who went about doing good"?

Whether all Christians are not concerned in that command, "While we have time let us do good to all men"?

Whether we shall not be more happy hereafter, the more good we do now?

¹Great is my glorying of you. I am filled with comfort. I am exceeding joyful.

8 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Whether we can be happy at all hereafter, unless we have, according to our power, "fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited those that are sick, and in prison," and made all these actions subservient to a higher purpose, even the saving of souls from death?

Whether it be not our bounden duty always to remember, that He did more for us than we can do for him, who assures us, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"?

II. Whether upon these considerations we may not try to do good to our acquaintance? Particularly, whether we may not try to convince them of the necessity of being Christians?

Whether of the consequent necessity of being scholars?

Whether of the necessity of method and industry, in order to either learning or virtue?

Whether we may not try to persuade them to confirm and increase their industry, by communicating as often as they can?

Whether we may not mention to them the authors whom we conceive to have wrote best on those subjects?

Whether we may not assist them, as we are able, from time to time, to form resolutions upon what they read in those authors, and to execute them with steadiness and perseverance?

III. Whether, upon the considerations above-mentioned, we may not try to do good to those that are hungry, naked, or sick? In particular, whether, if we know any necessitous family, we may not give them a little food, clothes, or physic, as they want?

Whether we may not give them, if they can read, a Bible, Common-Prayer Book, or Whole Duty of Man?

Whether we may not, now and then, inquire how they have used them; explain what they do not understand, and enforce what they do?

Whether we may not enforce upon them, more especially, the necessity of private prayer, and of frequenting the church and sacrament?

Whether we may not contribute, what little we are able, toward having their children clothed and taught to read?

Whether we may not take care that they be taught their catechism, and short prayers for morning and evening?

Letter to Mr. Morgan, Sen. 9

IV. Lastly, Whether, upon the considerations above mentioned, we may not try to do good to those that are in prison? In particular, Whether we may not release such well-disposed persons as remain in prison for small sums?

Whether we may not lend smaller sums to those that are of any trade, that they may procure themselves tools and materials to work with?

Whether we may not give to them who appear to want it most, a little money, or clothes, or physic?

Whether we may not supply as many as are serious enough to read, with a Bible, and Whole Duty of Man?

Whether we may not, as we have opportunity, explain and enforce these upon them, especially with respect to public and private prayer, and the blessed sacrament?

I do not remember that we met with any person who answered any of these questions in the negative, or who even doubted, whether it were not lawful to apply to this use that time and money, which we should else have spent in other diversions. But several we met with who increased our little stock of money for the prisoners and the poor, by subscribing something quarterly to it; so that the more persons we proposed our designs to, the more we were confirmed in the belief of their innocency, and the more determined to pursue them, in spite of the ridicule, which increased fast upon us during the winter. However, in spring I thought it could not be improper to desire farther instructions from those who were wiser and better than ourselves; and accordingly (on May 18, 1731) I wrote a particular account of all our proceedings to a clergyman of known wisdom and integrity. After having informed him of all the branches of our design, as clearly and simply as I could, I next acquainted him with the success it had met with in the following words:—"Almost as soon as we had made our first attempts this way, some of the men of wit in Christ Church entered the lists against us, and between mirth and anger made a pretty many reflections upon the Sacramentarians, as they were pleased to call us. Soon after, their allies at Merton altered their title, and did us the honour of styling ~~us~~ ^{us}, The Holy Club. But most of them being persons of well-known character, they had not the good fortune to gain any proselytes from the sacrament, till a gentleman eminent for learning, and well esteemed for piety, joining them, told his nephew, that if he dared to go to the

weekly communion any longer, he would immediately turn him out of doors. That argument, indeed, had no success : the young gentleman communicated next week : upon which his uncle, having again tried to convince him that he was in the wrong way, by shaking by the throat to no purpose, changed his method, and by mildness, prevailed upon him to absent from it the Sunday following, as he has done five Sundays in six ever since. This much delighted our gay opponents, who increased their number apace, especially when, shortly after, one of the seniors of the college having been with the Doctor, upon his return from him sent for two young gentlemen severally, who had communicated weekly for some time, and was so successful in his exhortations, that for the future they promised to do it only three times a-year. About this time there was a meeting (as one who was present at it informed your son) of several of the officers and seniors of the college, wherein it was consulted what would be the speediest way to stop the progress of enthusiasm in it. The result we know not, only it was soon publicly reported, that Dr. — and the censors were going to blow up the Godly Club. This was now our common title; though we were sometimes dignified with that of the Enthusiasts, or the Reforming Club."

Part of the answer I received was as follows :—

"GOOD SIR,

"A pretty while after the date, yours came to my hand. I waived my answer till I had an opportunity of consulting your father, who upon all accounts is a more proper judge of the affair than I am. But I could never find a fit occasion for it. As to my own sense of the matter, I confess, I cannot but heartily approve of that serious and religious turn of mind that prompts you and your associates to those pious and charitable offices; and can have no notion of that man's religion or concern for the honour of the University, that opposes you, as far as your design respects the colleges. I should be loath to send a son of mine to any seminary, where his conversing with virtuous young men, whose professed design of meetings together at proper times, was to assist each other in forming good resolutions, and encouraging one another to execute them with constancy and steadiness, was inconsistent with any received maxims or rules of life

among the members. As to the other branch of your design, as the town is divided into parishes, each of which has its proper incumbent, and as there is probably an ecclesiastic who has the spiritual charge of the prisoners, prudence may direct you to consult them: for though I dare not say you would be too officious, should you of your own mere motion seek out the persons that want your instructions and charitable contributions, yet should you have the concurrence of their proper Pastor, your good offices would be more regular and less liable to censure."

Your son was now at Holt; however, we continued to meet at our usual times, though our little affairs went on but heavily without him. But at our return from Lincolnshire, in September last, we had the pleasure of seeing him again; when, though he could not be so active with us as formerly, yet we were exceeding glad to spend what time we could in talking and reading with him. It was a little before this time my brother and I were at London, when going into a bookseller's shop, (Mr. Rivington's in St. Paul's Church-yard,) after some other conversation, he asked us whether we lived in town; and upon our answering, "No; at Oxford:"—"Then, gentlemen," said he, "let me earnestly recommend to your acquaintance a friend I have there, Mr. Clayton of Brazennose." Of this, having small leisure for contracting new acquaintance, we took no notice for the present. But in the spring following, (April 20,) Mr. Clayton meeting me in the street, and giving Mr. Rivington's service, I desired his company to my room, and then commenced our acquaintance. At the first opportunity I acquainted him with our whole design, which he immediately and heartily closed with: and not long after, Mr. M—— having then left Oxford, we fixed two evenings in a week to meet on, partly to talk upon that subject, and partly to read something in practical divinity.

The two points, whereunto, by the blessing of God and your son's help, we had before attained, we endeavoured to hold fast: I mean, the doing what good we can, and in order thereto communicating as often as we have opportunity. To these, by the advice of Mr. Clayton, we have added a third, the observing the fasts of the Church; the general neglect of which we can by no means appre-

hend to be a lawful excuse for neglecting them. And in the resolution to adhere to these and all things else which we are convinced God requires at our hands, we trust we shall persevere, till he calls us to give an account of our stewardship. As for the names of Methodists, Supererogation-men, and so on, with which some of our neighbours are pleased to compliment us, we do not conceive ourselves to be under any obligation to regard them, much less to take them for arguments. "To the law and to the testimony" we appeal, whereby we ought to be judged. If by these it can be proved we are in an error, we will immediately and gladly retract it: if not, we "have not so learned Christ" as to renounce any part of his service, though men should "say all manner of evil against us," with more judgment and as little truth as hitherto. We do, indeed, use all the lawful means we know to prevent "the good which is in us" from being "evil spoken of;" but if the neglect of known duties be the one condition of securing our reputation, why fare it well;—we know whom we have believed, and what we thus lay out he will pay us again. Your son already stands before the judgment-seat of him who judges righteous judgment; at the brightness of whose presence the clouds remove: his eyes are open, and he sees clearly whether it was "blind zeal and a thorough mistake of true religion, that hurried him on in the error of his way;" or whether he acted like a faithful and wise servant, who, from a just sense that his time was short, made haste to finish his work before his Lord's coming, that "when laid in the balance" he might not "be found wanting."

I have now largely and plainly laid before you the real ground of all the strange outcry you have heard; and am not without hope that by this fairer representation of it than you probably ever received before, both you and the Clergyman you formerly mentioned may have a more favourable opinion of a good cause, though under an ill name. Whether you have or no, I shall ever acknowledge my best services to be due to yourself and your family, both for the generous assistance you have given my father, and for the invaluable advantages your son has (under God) bestowed on,

Sir, your ever obliged

And most obedient servant.

ON THE DEATH OF
MR. MORGAN, OF CHRIST CHURCH.

BY THE REV. MR. SAMUEL WESLEY.

We fools counted his life madness.

If ought beneath them happy souls attend,
Let Morgan hear the triumph of a friend,
And hear well pleas'd. Let libertines so gay
With careless indolence despise the lay;
Let critic wits, and fools for laughter born,
Their verdict pass with supercilious scorn;
Let jovial crowds, by wine their senses drown'd,
Stammer out censure in their frantic round;
Let yawning sluggards faint dislike display,
Who, while they trust tomorrow, lose to day;
Let such as these the sacred strains condemn;
For 'tis true glory to be hiss'd by them.

Wise in his prime, he waited not for noon,
Convinc'd, that mortal never liv'd too soon.
As if foreboding here, his little stay,
He made his morning bear the heat of day.
Fix'd, while unfading glory he pursues,
No ill to hazard, and no good to lose:
No fair occasion glides unheeded by;
Snatching the golden moments as they fly, }
He by few fleeting hours ensures eternity. }
Friendship's warm beams his artless breast inspire,
And tend'rest rev'rence for a much-lov'd sire.
He dar'd for heaven this flattering world forego
Ardent to teach, as diligent to know.
Unwarp'd by sensual views, or vulgar aims,
By idle riches, or by idler names.
Fearful of sin in every close disguise,
Unmov'd by threat'ning or by glozing lies.
Seldom indeed the wicked came so far,
Forc'd by his piety to defensive war;

14 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Whose zeal for other men's salvation shown,
 Beyond the reach of hell secur'd his own.
 Gladd'ning the poor, where'er his steps he turn'd;
 Where pin'd the orphan, or the widow mourn'd;
 Where prisoners sigh'd beneath guilt's horrid stain,
 The worst confinement and the heaviest chain.
 Where death's sad shade th' uninstructed sight
 Veil'd with thick darkness in the land of light.
 Our Saviour thus fulfill'd his great design,
 (If human we may liken to divine,)
 Heal'd each disease that bodies frail endure,
 And preach'd th' unhop'd-for Gospel to the poor.

To means of grace the last respect he show'd,
 Nor sought new paths, as wiser than his God:
 Their sacred strength preserv'd him from extremes
 Of empty outside or enthusiast dreams;
 Whims of Molino, lost in rapture's mist,
 Or Quaker, late reforming quietist.

He knew that works our faith must here employ,
 And that 'tis heaven's great business to enjoy.
 Fix'd on that heaven he death's approaches saw,
 Nor vainly murmur'd at our nature's law;
 Repin'd not that his youth so soon should go,
 Nor griev'd for fleeting pleasures here below.
 Of sharpest anguish scorning to complain,
 He fills with mirth the intervals of pain.
 Not only unappall'd but joyful sees
 The dark, cold passage that must lead to peace;
 Strong with immortal bloom secure to rise,
 The tears for ever banished from his eyes.

Who now regrets his early youth would spend
 The life so nobly that so soon should end?
 Who blames the stripling for performing more
 Than Doctors grave, and Prelates of threescore?
 Who now esteems his fervour indiscreet,
 His prayers too frequent, or his alms too great?
 Who thinks, where blest he reigns beyond the sky,
 His crown too radiant, or his throne too high?
 Who but the fiend, who once his course withstood,
 And whisper'd,—"Stay till fifty to be good?"
 Sure, if believ'd, to' obtain his hellish aim,
 Adjourning to the time that never came.

JOURNAL

FROM OCTOBER 14, 1735, TO FEBRUARY 1, 173⁷₈

TUESDAY, October 14, 1735, Mr. Benjamin Ingham, of Queen's College, Oxford, Mr. Charles Delamotte, son of a merchant in London, who had offered himself some days before, my brother Charles Wesley, and myself, took boat for Gravesend, in order to embark for Georgia. Our end in leaving our native country, was not to avoid want, (God having given us plenty of temporal blessings,) nor to gain the dung or dross of riches or honour; but singly this, to save our souls; to live wholly to the glory of God. In the afternoon we found the Simmonds off Gravesend, and immediately went on board.

Wednesday and Thursday we spent with one or two of our friends, partly on board and partly on shore, in exhorting one another "to shake off every weight, and to run with patience the race set before us."

Fri. 17. I began to learn German, in order to converse with the Germans, six and twenty of whom we had on board. On Sunday, the weather being fair and calm, we had the Morning Service on quarter-deck. I now first preached *extempore*, and then administered the Lord's Supper to six or seven communicants. A little flock. May God increase it!

Mon. 20. Believing the denying ourselves, even in the smallest instances, might, by the blessing of God, be helpful to us, we wholly left off the use of flesh and wine, and confined ourselves to vegetable food, chiefly rice and biscuit. In the afternoon David Nitschman, Bishop of the Germans, and two others, began to learn English. O may we be, not only of one tongue, but of one mind and of one heart!

Tues. 21. We sailed from Gravesend. When we were past about half the Goodwin Sands, the wind suddenly failed. Had the calm continued till ebb, the ship had probably been lost. But the gale sprung up again in an hour, and carried us into the Downs.

We now began to be a little regular. Our common way of living was this: From four in the morning till five, each of us used private prayer. From five to seven we read the Bible together, carefully comparing it (that we might not lean to our own understandings) with the writings of the earliest ages. At seven we breakfasted. At eight were the public prayers. From nine to twelve I usually learned German, and Mr. Delamotte, Greek. My brother writ sermons, and Mr. Ingham instructed the children. At twelve we met to give an account to one another what we had done since our last meeting, and what we designed to do before our next. About one we dined. The time from dinner to four, we spent in reading to those of whom each of us had taken in charge, or in speaking to them severally, as need required. At four were the evening prayers; when either the second lesson was explained, (as it always was in the morning,) or the children were catechised, and instructed before the congregation. From five to six we again used private prayer. From six to seven I read in our cabin to two or three of the passengers, (of whom there were about eighty English on board,) and each of my brethren to a few more in theirs. At seven I joined with the Germans in their public service; while Mr. Ingham was reading between the decks, to as many as desired to hear. At eight we met again, to exhort and instruct one another. Between nine and ten we went to bed, where neither the roaring of the sea, nor the motion of the ship, could take away the refreshing sleep which God gave us.

Fri. 24. Having a rolling sea, most of the passengers found the effects of it. Mr. Delamotte was exceeding sick for several days: Mr. Ingham, for about half an hour. My brother's head ached much. Hitherto it has pleased God, the sea has not disordered me at all; nor have I been hindered one quarter of an hour from reading, writing, composing, or doing any business I could have done on shore.

During our stay in the Downs, some or other of us went, as often as we had opportunity, on board the ship that sailed in company with us, where also many were glad to join in prayer and hearing the word.

Fri. 31. We sailed out of the Downs. At eleven at night I was waked by a great noise. I soon found there was no danger. But the bare apprehension of it, gave

me a lively conviction what manner of men those ought to be, who are every moment on the brink of eternity.

Sat. Nov. 1. We came to St. Helen's harbour, and the next day into Cowes road. The wind was fair, but we waited for the man of war which was to sail with us. This was a happy opportunity of instructing our fellow-travellers. May He whose seed we sow, give it the increase!

Sun. 16. Thomas Hird, and Grace his wife, with their children, Mark, aged 21, and Phebe, about 17, late Quakers, were, at their often-repeated desire, and after careful instruction, admitted to baptism.

Thur. 20. We fell down into Yarmouth road, but the next day were forced back into Cowes. During our stay here there were several storms: in one of which two ships in Yarmouth road were lost.

The continuance of the contrary winds gave my brother an opportunity of complying with the desire of the Minister of Cowes, and preached there three or four times. The poor people flocked together in great numbers. We distributed a few little books among the more serious of them, which they received with all possible expressions of thankfulness.

Fri. 21. One recovering from a dangerous illness, desired to be instructed in the nature of the Lord's Supper. I thought it concerned her to be first instructed in the nature of Christianity; and accordingly fixed an hour a day to read with her in Mr. Law's Treatise on Christian Perfection.

Sun. 23. At night I was waked by the tossing of the ship and roaring of the wind, and plainly showed I was unfit, for I was unwilling to die.

Tues. Dec. 2. I had much satisfaction in conversing with one that was very ill and very serious. But in a few days she recovered from her sickness and from her seriousness together.

Sun. 7. Finding nature did not require so frequent supplies as we had been accustomed to, we agreed to leave off suppers; from doing which, we have hitherto found no inconvenience.

Wed. 10. We sailed from Cowes, and in the afternoon passed the Needles. Here the ragged rocks, with the waves dashing and foaming at the foot of them, and the white side of the island rising to such a height, per-

18 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

pendicular from the beach, gave a strong idea of "Him that spanneth the heavens, and holdeth the waters in the hollow of his hand!"

To day I spoke closely on the head of religion, to one I had talked with once or twice before. Afterwards she said, with many tears, "My mother died when I was but ten years old. Some of her last words were, 'Child, fear God; and though you lose me, you shall never want a friend.' I have now found a friend, when I most wanted, and least expected one."

From this day to the fourteenth, being in the Bay of Biscay, the sea was very rough. Mr. Delamotte and many others were more sick than ever; Mr. Ingham, a little; I, not at all. But the fourteenth being a calm day, most of the sick were cured at once.

Thurs. 18. One who was big with child, in a high fever, and almost wasted away with a violent cough, desired to receive the holy communion before she died. At the hour of her receiving, she began to recover, and in a few days was entirely out of danger.

Sun. 21. We had fifteen communicants, which was our usual number on Sundays: on Christmas-day we had nineteen; but on New Year's Day fifteen only.

Thur. Jan. 15, 1736. Complaint being made to Mr. Oglethorpe, of the unequal distribution of the water among the passengers, he appointed new officers to take charge of it. At this the old ones and their friends were highly exasperated against us, to whom they imputed the change. But "the fierceness of man shall turn to thy praise."

Sat. 17. Many people were very impatient at the contrary wind. At seven in the evening they were quieted by a storm. It rose higher and higher till nine. About nine the sea broke over us from stem to stern; burst through the windows of the state cabin, where three or four of us were, and covered us all over, though a bureau sheltered me from the main shock. About eleven I lay down in the great cabin, and in a short time fell asleep, though very uncertain whether I should wake alive, and much ashamed of my unwillingness to die. O how pure in heart must he be, who would rejoice to appear before God at a moment's warning! Towards morning, "He rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."

Sun. 18: We returned God thanks for our deliverance, of which a few appeared duly sensible. But the rest (among whom were most of the sailors) denied we had been in any danger. I could not have believed that so little good would have been done by the terror they were in before. But it cannot be that they should long obey God from fear, who are deaf to the motives of love.

Fri. 23. In the evening another storm began. In the morning it increased, so that they were forced to let the ship drive. I could not but say to myself, "How is it that thou hast no faith?" being still unwilling to die. About one in the afternoon, almost as soon as I had stepped out of the great cabin door, the sea did not break as usual, but came with a full, smooth tide over the side of the ship. I was vaulted over with water in a moment, and so stunned, that I scarce expected to lift up my head again, till the sea should give up her dead. But thanks be to God, I received no hurt at all. About midnight the storm ceased.

Sun. 25. At noon, our third storm began. At four it was more violent than before. Now indeed we could say, "The waves of the sea were mighty and raged horribly. They rose up to the heavens above, and cleave down to hell beneath." The winds roared round about us, and (what I never heard before) whistled as distinctly as if it had been a human voice. The ship not only rocked to and fro with the utmost violence, but shook and jarred with so unequal, grating a motion, that one could not but with great difficulty keep one's hold of any thing, nor stand a moment without it. Every ten minutes came a shock against the stern or side of the ship, which one would think should dash the planks in pieces. At this time, a child privately baptized before, was brought to be received into the church. It put me in mind of Jeremiah's buying the field, when the Chaldeans were on the point of destroying Jerusalem, and seemed a pledge of the mercy God designed to show us, even in the land of the living.

We spent two or three hours after prayers, in conversing suitably to the occasion, confirming one another in a calm submission to the wise, holy, gracious will of God. And now a storm did not appear so terrible as before. Blessed be the God of all consolation!

At seven I went to the Germans. I had long before

observed the great seriousness of their behaviour. Of their humility they had given a continual proof, by performing those servile offices for the other passengers, which none of the English would undertake; for which they desired, and would receive no pay, saying, "It was good for their proud hearts," and "their loving Saviour had done more for them." And every day had given them occasion of showing a meekness, which no injury could move. If they were pushed, struck, or thrown down, they rose again and went away; but no complaint was found in their mouth. There was now an opportunity of trying, whether they were delivered from the spirit of fear, as well as from that of pride, anger and revenge. In the midst of the psalm wherewith their service began, the sea broke over, split the main-sail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured in between the decks, as if the great deep had already swallowed us up. A terrible screaming began among the English. The Germans calmly sung on. I asked one of them afterwards, "Was you not afraid?" He answered, "I thank God, no." I asked, "But were not your women and children afraid?" He replied mildly, "No; our women and children are not afraid to die."

From them I went to their crying, trembling neighbours, and pointed out to them the difference in the hour of trial, between him that feareth God, and him that feareth him not. At twelve the wind fell. This was the most glorious day which I have hitherto seen.

Mon. 26. We enjoyed the calm. I can conceive no difference, comparable to that between a smooth and a rough sea, except that which is between a mind calmed by the love of God, and one torn up by the storms of earthly passions.

Thur. Jan. 29. About seven in the evening, we fell in with the skirts of a hurricane. The rain as well as the wind was extremely violent. The sky was so dark in a moment, that the sailors could not so much as see the ropes, or set about furling the sails. The ship must in all probability have overset, had not the wind fell as suddenly as it rose. Toward the end of it, we had that appearance on each of the masts, which (it is thought) the ancients called Castor and Pollux. It was a small ball of white fire, like a star. The mariners say, it appears either in a storm (and then commonly upon the

deck) or just at the end of it; and then it is usually on the masts or sails.

Fri. 30. We had another storm, which did us no other harm than splitting the fore-sail. Our bed being wet, I laid me down on the floor, and slept sound till morning. And, I believe, I shall not find it needful to go to bed (as it is called) any more.

Sun. Feb. 1. We spoke with a ship of Carolina; and Wed. 4. came within soundings. About noon the trees were visible from the mast, and in the afternoon from the main deck. In the evening lesson were these words, "A great door and effectual is opened." O let no one shut it!

Thur. Feb. 5. Between two and three in the afternoon, God brought us all safe into the Savannah river. We cast anchor near Tybee-island, where the groves of pines, running along the shore, made an agreeable prospect, showing, as it were, the bloom of spring in the depth of winter.

Fri. 6. About eight in the morning, we first set foot on American ground. It was a small uninhabited island, over against Tybee. Mr. Oglethorpe led us to a rising ground, where we all kneeled down to give thanks. He then took boat for Savannah. When the rest of the people were come on shore, we called our little flock together to prayers. Several parts of the second lesson, Mark vi, were wonderfully suited to the occasion; in particular, the account of the courage and sufferings of John the Baptist; our Lord's directions to the first Preachers of his Gospel, and their toiling at sea, and deliverance, with those comfortable words, "It is I, be not afraid."

Sat. Feb. 7. Mr. Oglethorpe returned from Savannah, with Mr. Spangenberg, one of the Pastors of the Germans. I soon found what spirit he was of; and asked his advice with regard to my own conduct. He said, "My brother, I must first ask you one or two questions. Have you the witness within yourself? Does the spirit of God bear witness with your spirit, that you are a child of God?" I was surprised, and knew not what to answer. He observed it, and asked, "Do you know Jesus Christ?" I paused and said, "I know he is the Saviour of the world." "True; replied he; but do you know he has saved you?" I answered, "I hope he

has died to save me." He only added, "Do you know yourself?" I said, "I do." But I fear they were vain words.

Mon. 9. I asked him many questions, both concerning himself, and the church at Hernhuth. The substance of his answers was this.

"At eighteen years old, I was sent to the university of Jena, where I spent some years in learning languages, and the vain philosophy, which I have now long been labouring to forget. Here it pleased God, by some that preached his word with power, to overturn my heart. I immediately threw aside all my learning, but what tended to save my soul. I shunned all company, and retired into a solitary place, resolving to spend my life there. For three days I had much comfort here; but on the fourth it was all gone. I was amazed, and went for advice to an experienced Christian. When I came to him, I could not speak. But he saw my heart, and advised me to go back to my house, and follow the business Providence called me to. I went back, but was fit for nothing. I could neither do business, nor join in any conversation. All I could say to any one, was yes, or no. Many times I could not say that, nor understand the plainest thing that was said to me. My friends and acquaintance looked upon me as dead, came no more to me, nor spoke about me.

"When I grew better, I began teaching some poor children. Others joining with me, we taught more and more, till there were above thirty teachers and above two hundred scholars. I had now invitations to other universities. But I could not accept of any: desiring only, if it were the will of God, to be little and unknown. I had spent some years thus, when Professor Breithaupt of Halle died: being then pressed to remove thither, I believed it was the call of God, and went. I had not been long there, before many faults were found, both with my behaviour and preaching; and offences increased more and more, till, after half a year, a petition against me was sent to the King of Prussia, who sent an order to the commander at Halle, in pursuance whereof I was warned to leave the city in forty-eight hours. I did so, and retired to Hernhuth to Count Zinzendorf.

"The village of Hernhuth contains about a thousand souls, gathered out of many nations. They hold fast the

discipline, as well as the faith and practice of the apostolical Church. I was desired by the brethren there last year, to conduct sixteen of them to Georgia, where two lots of ground are assigned us, and with them I have stayed ever since."

I asked, "Whither he was to go next?" He said, "I have thoughts of going to Pennsylvania. But what God will do with me, I know not. I am blind. I am a child. My father knows, and I am ready to go wherever he calls."

Fri. 13. Some of the Indians sent us word of their intention to come down to us. In our course of reading to day, were these words: "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities. And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of Hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of Hosts, and to pray before him." (Zech. viii. 20, &c.)

Sat. Feb. 14. About one, Tomo Chachi, his nephew Thleeanouhee, his wife Sinauky, with two more women, and two or three Indian children, came on board. As soon as we came in, they all rose and shook us by the hand, and Tomo Chachi (one Mrs. Musgrove interpreted) spoke as follows:

"I am glad you are come. When I was in England I desired that some would speak the great Word to me; and my nation then desired to hear it; but now we are all in confusion. Yet I am glad you are come. I will go up and speak to the wise men of our nation; and I hope they will hear. But we would not be made Christians as the Spaniards make Christians: we would be taught, before we are baptized."

I answered, "There is but one, He that sitteth in heaven, who is able to teach man wisdom. Though we are come so far, we know not whether He will please to teach you by us or no. If He teaches you, you will learn wisdom, but we can do nothing." We then withdrew.

Sun. 15. Another party of Indians came; they were all tall, well-proportioned men, and had a remarkable softness in their speech and gentleness in their whole behaviour. In the afternoon they all returned home, but three, who staid to go with Mr. Oglethorpe.

24 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Mon. Feb. 16. Mr. Oglethorpe set out for the new settlement on the Alatomahaw river. He took with him 50 men, besides Mr. Ingham, Mr. Hermsdorf, and the three Indians.

Thur. 19. My brother and I took boat, and passing by Savannah, went to pay our first visit in America, to the poor heathens. But neither Tomo Chachi nor Sinauky were at home. Coming back, we waited upon Mr. Causton, the chief Magistrate of Savannah. From him we went with Mr. Spangenberg to the German brethren. About eleven we returned to the boat, and came to our ship about four in the morning.

Sat. 21. Mary Welch, aged eleven days, was baptized according to the custom of the first Church, and the rule of the Church of England, by immersion. The child was ill then, but recovered from that hour.

Tues. 24. Mr. Oglethorpe returned. The day following, I took my leave of most of the passengers of the ship, who all appeared serious. It may be, all the seed is not fallen upon stony ground.

In the evening I went to Savannah again, whence Mr. Spangenberg, Bishop Nitschman, and Andrew Dober, went up with us to Mrs. Musgrove's, to choose a spot for the little house, which Mr. Oglethorpe had promised to build us. Being afterward disappointed of our boat, we were obliged to pass the night there. But wherever we are it is the same thing, if it be the will of our Father which is in heaven.

At our return the next day, (Mr. Quincy being then in the house wherein we afterwards were,) Mr. Delamotte and I took up our lodging with the Germans. We had now an opportunity, day by day, of observing their whole behaviour. For we were in one room with them from morning to night, unless for the little time I spent in walking. They were always employed, always cheerful themselves, and in good humour with one another; they had put away all anger and strife, and wrath and bitterness, and clamour and evil-speaking; they walked worthy of the vocation wherewith they were called, and adorned the Gospel of our Lord in all things.

Sat. Feb. 28. They met to consult concerning the affairs of their Church: Mr. Spangenberg being shortly to go to Pennsylvania, and Bishop Nitschman to return to Germany. After several hours spent in conference and

prayer, they proceeded to the election and ordination of a Bishop. The great simplicity, as well as solemnity of the whole, almost made me forget the seventeen hundred years between, and imagine myself in one of those assemblies where form and state were not; but Paul the tent-maker, or Peter the fisherman presided, yet with the demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

Sun. 29. Hearing Mr. Oglethorpe did not come any more to Savannah, before he went to Frederica, I was obliged to go down to the ship again, (Mr. Spangenberg following me thither,) and receive his orders and instructions on several heads. From him we went to public prayers; after which we were refreshed by several letters from England. Upon which I could not but observe, how careful our Lord is, to repay whatever we give up on his account. When I left England, I was chiefly afraid of two things: One, that I should never again have so many faithful friends as I left there; the other, that the spark of love which began to kindle in their hearts would cool and die away. But who knoweth the mercy and power of God? From ten friends I am awhile secluded, and he hath opened me a door into a whole Church. And as to the very persons I left behind, his spirit is gone forth so much the more, teaching them not to trust in man, but "in Him that raised the dead, and calleth the things that are not, as though they were." About four, having taken leave of Mr. Spangenberg, who was the next morning to set out for Pennsylvania, I returned to Savannah.

Sat. March 6. I had a long conversation with John Reinier, the son of a gentleman, who, being driven out of France, on account of his religion, settled at Vivay in Switzerland, and practised physic there. His father died while he was a child. Some years after, he told his mother he was desirous to leave Switzerland, and to retire into some other country, where he might be free from the temptations which he could not avoid there. When her consent was at length obtained, he agreed with a master of a vessel, with whom he went to Holland by land, thence to England, and from England to Pennsylvania. He was provided with money, books and drugs, intending to follow his father's profession. But no sooner was he come to Philadelphia than the captain, who had borrowed his money before, instead of repaying

it, demanded the full pay for his passage, and under that pretence seized on all his effects. He then left him in a strange country, where he could not speak to be understood, without necessaries, money, or friends. In this condition he thought it best to sell himself for a servant, which he accordingly did, for seven years. When about five were expired, he fell sick of a lingering illness, which made him useless to his master; who, after it had continued half a year, would not keep him any longer, but turned him out to shift for himself. He first tried to mend shoes, but soon after joined himself to some French Protestants and learned to make buttons. He then went and lived with an Anabaptist; but soon after hearing an account of the Germans in Georgia, walked from Pennsylvania thither, where he found the rest which he had so long sought in vain.

Sun. March 7. I entered upon my ministry at Savannah, by preaching on the epistle for the day, being the 13th of the first of Corinthians. In the second lesson (Luke xviii.) was our Lord's prediction of the treatment which he himself (and consequently his followers) was to meet with from the world, and his gracious promise to those who are content, *nudi nudum Christum sequi*: "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or friends, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come everlasting life."

Yet, notwithstanding these plain declarations of our Lord, notwithstanding my own repeated experience, notwithstanding the experience of all the sincere followers of Christ, whom I have ever talked with, read or heard of; nay, and the reason of the thing evincing to a demonstration that all who love not the light must hate him who is continually labouring to pour it in upon them; I do here bear witness against myself, that when I saw the number of people crowding into the church, the deep attention with which they received the word, and the seriousness that afterwards sat on all their faces; I could scarce refrain from giving the lie to experience and reason and Scripture all together. I could hardly believe that the greater, the far greater part of this attentive, serious people, would hereafter trample under foot that word, and say all manner of evil falsely of him that spake it.

O who can believe what their heart abhors? Jesus, master, have mercy on us! Let us love thy cross; then shall we believe, "if we suffer with thee, we shall also reign with thee!"

This evening one of the Germans, who had been long ill of a consumption, found himself much worse. On my mentioning it to Bishop Nitschman he smiled and said "He will soon be well; he is ready for the bridegroom."

Sun. Mar. 14. Having before given notice of my design to do so, every Sunday and holiday, according to the rules of our Church, I administered the holy communion to eighteen persons. Which of these will endure to the end?

Mon. Mar. 15. Mr. Quincy going for Carolina, I removed into the Minister's house. It is large enough for a larger family than ours, and has many conveniences, besides a good garden. I could not but reflect on the well-known epigram,

Ἄγρος Ἀχαιμενίδου γενομένη ποτὲ νῦν δὲ Μενίππου·

"How short a time will it be before its present possessor is removed! perhaps to be no more seen!"

Sun. 28. A servant of Mr. Bradley's sent to desire to speak with me. Going to him, I found a young man ill, but perfectly sensible. He desired the rest to go out, and then said, "On Thursday night, about eleven, being in bed, but broad awake, I heard one calling aloud 'Peter! Peter Wright!' and looking up, the room was as light as day, and I saw a man in very bright clothes stand by the bed, who said, 'Prepare yourself, for your end is nigh;' and then immediately all was dark as before." I told him, "The advice was good, whence-soever it came." In a few days he recovered from his illness; his whole temper was changed as well as his life; and so continued to be, till after three or four weeks he relapsed and died in peace.

Tues. Mar. 30. Mr Ingham coming from Frederica, brought me letters, pressing me to go thither. The next day Mr. Delamotte and I began to try, whether life might not as well be sustained by one sort as by variety of food. We chose to make the experiment with bread; and were never more vigorous and healthy than while we tasted nothing else. "Blessed are the pure in heart!" who, whether they eat or drink, or whatever they do, have no

28 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

end therein but to please God ! To them all things are pure. Every creature is good to them, and nothing to be rejected. But let them who know and feel that they are not thus pure, use every help and remove every hinderance; always remembering, "He that despiseth little things shall fall by little and little."

Sun. April 4. About four in the afternoon, I set out for Frederica, in a pettiawga : (a sort of flat-bottomed barge.) The next evening we anchored near Skidoway Island, where the water, at flood, was twelve or fourteen foot deep. I wrapped myself up from head to foot, in a large cloak, to keep off the sand-flies, and lay down on the quarter-deck. Between one and two I waked under water, being so fast asleep that I did not find where I was till my mouth was full of it. Having left my cloak, I know not how, upon deck, I swam round to the other side of the pettiawga, where a boat was tied, and climbed up by the rope without any hurt, more than wetting my clothes. Thou art the God of whom cometh salvation : thou art the Lord by whom we escape death.

The winds were so contrary, that on Saturday 10, we could but just get over against Doboy Island, twenty miles from Frederica, but could not possibly make the creek, having a strong tide also against us. Here we lay beating off till past one, when the lightning and rain which we had long seen at a distance, drove down full upon us; till after a quarter of an hour, the clouds parted, some passing on the right, and some on the left, leaving us a clear sky, and so strong a wind right after us, as in two hours brought us to Frederica.

A little before we landed, I opened my Testament on these words : "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Coming on shore, I found my brother exceeding weak, having been for some time ill of a flux; but he mended from the hour he saw me. This also hath God wrought !

Sun. April 11. I preached at the new Storehouse on the first verse of the Gospel for the day, "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?" There was a large congregation, whom I endeavoured to convince of unbelief, by simply proposing the conditions of salvation, as they are laid down in Scripture, and appealing to their own hearts, whether they believed they could be saved on no other terms?

In every one of the six following days, I had some fresh proofs of the absolute necessity of following that wise advice of the apostle, "Judge nothing before the time; until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts."

Sat. April 17. We set out for Savannah, and reached it on Tuesday evening. O blessed place, where, having but one end in view, dissembling and fraud are not; but each of us can pour out his heart without fear into his brother's bosom!

Not finding, as yet, any door open for the pursuing our main design, we considered in what manner we might be most useful to the little flock at Savannah. And we agreed, 1. To advise the more serious among them to form themselves into a sort of little society, and to meet once or twice a week, in order to reprove, instruct, and exhort one another. 2. To select out of these a smaller number for a more intimate union with each other, which might be forwarded, partly by our conversing singly with each, and partly by inviting them altogether to our house; and this accordingly we determined to do every Sunday in the afternoon.

Wed. May 5. I was asked to baptize a child of Mr. Parker's, second Bailiff of Savannah; but Mrs. Parker told me, "Neither Mr. P. nor I will consent to its being dipped." I answered, "If you 'certify that your child is weak, it will suffice (the rubric says) to pour water upon it.'" She replied, "Nay, the child is not weak, but I am resolved it shall not be dipped." This argument I could not confute. So I went home; and the child was baptized by another person.

Sun. 9. I began dividing the public prayers, according to the original appointment of the Church: (still observed in a few places in England.) The morning service began at five. The communion office, (with the sermon,) at eleven. The evening service about three. And this day I began reading prayers in the Court-house; a large and convenient place.

Mon. 10. I began visiting my parishioners in order, from house to house; for which I set apart the time when they cannot work, because of the heat, viz. from twelve till three in the afternoon.

Sun. May 16. We were surprised in the evening by my

brother just come from Frederica. After some conversation, we consulted how the poor people there might be taken care of during his absence. And it was at last agreed, that Mr. Ingham and I should take our turns in assisting them; and the first was allotted me. Accordingly, on Tuesday 18, I walked to Thunderbolt; whence the next afternoon we set out in a small boat. In the evening we touched at Skidoway, and had a small, but attentive congregation to join with us in evening prayer.

Sat. May 22. About four in the afternoon we entered upon Doboy Sound. The wind, which was right a-head, was so high, when we were in the middle of it, and the sea so rough, being driven in at the inlet, that the boat was on the point of sinking every moment. But it pleased God to bring us safe to the other side in half an hour, and to Frederica the next morning. We had public prayers at nine, at which nineteen persons were present; and (I think) nine communicants.

Fri. 28. I read the commendatory prayer by Mr. Germain, who lay at the point of death. He had lost his speech and his senses. His eyes were set, neither had he any discernible motion, but the heaving of his breast. While we stood round him, he stretched out his arms, rubbed his head, recovered his sight, speech and understanding; and immediately sending for the Bailiffs, settled the affairs of his family; and then lay down and died.

At the first service on Sunday, May 30, were only five; at the second, twenty-five. The next day, I made Mr. Lassel's will; who, notwithstanding his great weakness, was quite revived when any mention was made of death or of eternity.

Tues. June 1. After praying with him, I was surprised to find one of the most controverted questions in divinity, disinterested love, decided at once by a poor old man, without education or learning, or any instructor but the Spirit of God. I asked him what he thought of Paradise, (to which he said he was going)? He said, "To be sure, it is a fine place. But I don't mind that; I don't care what place I am in. Let God put me where he will, or do with me what he will, so I may but set forth his honour and glory."

Thur. June 3. Being Ascension Day, we had the holy communion; but only Mr. Hird's family joined with us in

it. One reason why there were no more, was, because a few words which a woman had inadvertently spoken, had set almost all the town in a flame. Alas! How shall a city stand that is thus divided against itself? where there is no brotherly love, no meekness, no forbearing or forgiving one another; but envy, malice, revenge, suspicion, anger, clamour, bitterness, evil speaking, without end! Abundant proof that there can be no true love of man, unless it be built on the love of God.

Sun. 6. Calling on Mr. Lassel, and asking how he did, "My departure (said he) I hope is at hand." I asked, "Are you troubled at that?" He replied, "O no; to depart, and to be with Christ, is far better. I desire no more of this bad world. My hope and my joy and my love is there." The next time I saw him he said, "I desire nothing more, than for God to forgive my many and great sins. I would be the humblest creature living. My heart is humble and broken for my sins. Tell me, teach me, what shall I do to please God. I would fain do whatever is his will." I said, "It is his will you should suffer." He answered, "Then I *will* suffer. I will gladly suffer whatever pleases him."

Mon. 7. Finding him weaker, I asked, "Do you still desire to die?" He said, "Yes; but I dare not pray for it, for fear I should displease my heavenly Father. His will be done. Let him work his will, in my life, or in my death."

Thur. 10. We began to execute at Frederica what we had before agreed to do at Savannah. Our design was, on Sundays in the afternoon, and every evening after public service, to spend some time with the most serious of the communicants, in singing, reading and conversation. This evening we had only Mark Hird. But on Sunday Mr. Hird and two more desired to be admitted. After a psalm and a little conversation, I read Mr. Law's Christian Perfection, and concluded with another psalm.

Sat. June 12. Being with one who was very desirous to converse with me, but not upon religion, I spoke to this effect: "Suppose you was going to a country, where every one spoke Latin, and understood no other language, neither would converse with any that did not understand it; suppose one was sent to stay here a short time, on purpose to teach it you; suppose that person, pleased with your company, should spend his time in trifling with

you, and teach you nothing of what he came for; would that be well done? Yet this is our case. You are going to a country, where every one speaks the love of God. The citizens of heaven understand no other language. They converse with none who do not understand it. Indeed none such are admitted there. I am sent from God to teach you this. A few days are allotted us for that purpose. Would it then be well done in me, because I was pleased with your company, to spend this short time in trifling, and teach you nothing of what I came for? God forbid! I will rather not converse with you at all. Of the two extremes, this is the best."

Wed. June 16. Another little company of us met, Mr. Reed, Davidson, Walker, Delamotte, and myself. We sung, read a little of Mr. Law, and then conversed. Wednesdays and Fridays were the days we fixed for constant meeting.

Thur. 17. An officer of a man of war, walking just behind us, with two or three of his acquaintance, cursed and swore exceedingly: but upon my reproving him, seemed much moved, and gave me many thanks.

Sat. 19. Mr. Oglethorpe returned from the south, and gave orders on Sunday the 20th, that none should profane the day (as was usual before) by fishing or fowling upon it. In the afternoon I summed up what I had seen or heard at Frederica, inconsistent with Christianity, and consequently with the prosperity of the place. The event was as it ought: some of the hearers were profited, and the rest deeply offended.

This day, at half an hour past ten, God heard the prayer of his servant, and Mr. Lassel, according to his desire, was "dissolved that he might be with Christ."

Tues. 22. Observing much coldness in Mr. ——'s behaviour, I asked him the reason of it. He answered, "I like nothing you do. All your sermons are satires upon particular persons, therefore I will never hear you more; and all the people are of my mind, for we won't hear ourselves abused."

"Beside, they say, they are Protestants. But as for you, they cannot tell what religion you are of. They never heard of such a religion before. They do not know what to make of it. And then your private behaviour.—All the quarrels that have been here since you came, have been long of you. Indeed there is neither man nor woman

in the town, who minds a word you say. And so you may preach long enough; but no body will come to hear you."

He was too warm for hearing an answer. So I had nothing to do but to thank him for his openness and walk away.

Wed. 23. I had a long conversation with Mr. ———, upon the nature of true religion. I then asked him, "Why he did not endeavour to recommend it to all with whom he conversed?" He said, "I did so once; and for some time, I thought I had done much good by it. But I afterwards found they were never the better, and I myself was the worse. Therefore now, though I always strive to be inoffensive in my conversation, I do not strive to make people religious, unless those that have a desire to be so, and are consequently willing to hear me. But I have not yet (I speak not of you or your brother) found one such person in America."

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!" Mark the tendency of this accursed principle! If you will speak only to those who are *willing to hear*, see how many you will turn from the error of their ways! If, therefore, striving to do good, you have done hurt, what then? So did St. Paul. So did the Lord of life. Even HIS word was "the savour of death, as well as the savour of life." But shall he therefore strive no more? God forbid! Strive more humbly, more calmly, more cautiously. Do not strive as you did before,—but strive while the breath of God is in your nostrils!

Being to leave Frederica in the evening, I took the more notice of these words in the lesson for the day: "Whereunto shall I liken the men of this generation? They are like unto children sitting in the market-place, and saying, we have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept. For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. The Son of Man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a wine bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!" (Luke vii.)

About eleven at night we took boat, and on Saturday 26, about one in the afternoon, came to Savannah. O what do we want here, either for life or godliness! If suffering, God will send it in his time.

34 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Sun. June 27. About twenty joined with us in morning prayer. An hour or two after, a large party of Creek Indians came, the expectation of whom deprived us of our place of public worship, in which they were to have their audience.

Wed. 30. I hoped a door was opened for going up immediately to the Choctaws, the least polished, i.e. the least corrupted of all the Indian nations. But upon my informing Mr. Oglethorpe of our design, he objected, not only the danger of being intercepted, or killed by the French there; but much more, the inexpediency of leaving Savannah destitute of a Minister. These objections I related to our brethren in the evening, who were all of opinion, "We ought not to go yet."

Thur. July 1. The Indians had an audience, and another on Saturday, when Chicali, their head-man, dined with Mr. Oglethorpe. After dinner, I asked the grey-headed old man, "What he thought he was made for?" He said, "He that is above knows what he made us for. We know nothing. We are in the dark. But white men know much. And yet white men build great houses, as if they were to live for ever. But white men cannot live for ever. In a little time, white men will be dust as well as I." I told him, "If red men will learn the good book, they may know as much as white men. But neither we nor you can understand that book, unless we are taught by Him that is above: and he will not teach unless you avoid what you already know is not good." He answered, "I believe that. He will not teach us while our hearts are not white. And our men do what they know is not good: they kill their own children. And our women do what they know is not good: they kill the child before it is born. Therefore, He that is above, does not send us the good book."

Hearing the younger of the Miss Boveys was not well, I called upon them this evening. I found she had only the prickly heat, a sort of rash, very common here in summer. We soon fell into serious conversation, after I had asked, "If they did not think they were too young to trouble themselves with religion yet? and, whether they might not defer it ten or a dozen years?" To which one of them replied, "If it will be reasonable ten years hence to be religious, it is so now: I am not for deferring one moment."

Wed. July 7. I called there again, being determined now to speak more closely. But meeting company there, prudence induced me to put it off till another opportunity.

Thur. 8. Mr. O. being there again, and casually speaking of sudden death, Miss Becky said, "If it was the will of God, I should choose to die without a lingering illness." Her sister said, "Are you then always prepared to die?" She replied, "Jesus Christ is always prepared to help me. And little stress is to be laid on such a preparation for death, as is made in a fit of sickness."

Sat. July 10. Just as they had done drinking tea, Mrs. Margaret seeing her colour change, asked if she was well? She did not return any answer; and Dr. Talser soon after going by, she desired him to step in, and said, "Sir, my sister, I fear, is not well." He looked earnestly at her, felt her pulse, and replied, "Well, madam! your sister is dying." However he thought it not impossible bleeding might help. She bled about an ounce, leaned back and died.

As soon as I heard of it I went to the house, and begged they would not lay her out immediately, there being a possibility, at least, she might only be in a swoon: of which, indeed, there was some slight hope, she not only being as warm as ever, but having a fresh colour in her cheeks, and a few drops of blood starting out upon bending her arm; but there was no pulse and no breath; so that having waited some hours, we found her "spirit was indeed returned to God that gave it."

I never saw so beautiful a corpse in my life. Poor comfort to its late inhabitant! I was greatly surprised at her sister. There was in all her behaviour such an inexpressible mixture of tenderness and resignation. The first time I spoke to her, she said, "All my afflictions are nothing to this. I have lost not only a sister, but a friend. But it is the will of God. I rely on Him; and doubt not but He will support me under it."

This evening we had such a storm of thunder and lightning as I never saw before, even in Georgia. This voice of God, too, told me I was not fit to die; since I was afraid, rather than desirous of it. O when shall I wish to be dissolved and to be with Christ? When I love him with all my heart.

Almost the whole town was the next evening at the funeral; where many doubtless made a world of good

resolutions. O how little trace of most of these will be left in the morning! It is a true saying, "Hell is paved with good intentions."

Tues. July 20. Five of the Chicasaw Indians (twenty of whom had been in Savannah several days) came to see us, with Mr. Andrews, their interpreter. They were all warriors, four of them head men. The two chiefs were Paustoobee and Mingo Mattaw. Our conference was as follows:—

Q. Do you believe there is one above who is over all things?

Paustoobee answered, We believe there are four beloved things above, the clouds, the sun, the clear sky, and He that lives in the clear sky.

Q. Do you believe there is but one that lives in the clear sky?

A. We believe there are two with him, three in all.

Q. Do you think he made the sun and the other beloved things?

A. We cannot tell. Who hath seen?

Q. Do you think he made you?

A. We think he made all men at first.

Q. How did he make them at first?

A. Out of the ground.

Q. Do you believe he loves you?

A. I do not know. I cannot see him.

Q. But has he not often saved your life?

A. He has. Many bullets have gone on this side, and many on that side, but he would never let them hurt me. And many bullets have gone into these young men; and yet they are alive!

Q. Then, cannot he save you from your enemies now?

A. Yes, but we know not if he will. We have now so many enemies round about us, that I think of nothing but death. And if I am to die, I shall die, and I will die like a man. But if he will have me to live, I shall live. Though I had ever so many enemies, he can destroy them all.

Q. How do you know that?

A. From what I have seen. When our enemies came against us before, then the beloved clouds came for us. And often much rain, and sometimes hail has come upon them, and that in a very hot day. And I saw, when many French and Choctaws and other nations came

against one of our towns; and the ground made a noise under them, and the beloved ones in the air behind them; and they were afraid, and went away, and left their meat and drink and their guns. I tell no lie. All these saw it too.

Q. Have you heard such noises at other times?

A. Yes, often; before and after almost every battle.

Q. What sort of noises were they?

A. Like the noise of drums and guns and shouting.

Q. Have you heard any such lately?

A. Yes: four days after our last battle with the French.

Q. Then you heard nothing before it?

A. The night before, I dreamed I heard many drums up there: and many trumpets there, and much stamping of feet and shouting. Till then I thought we should all die. But then I thought the beloved ones were come to help us. And the next day I heard above a hundred guns go off before the fight began; and I said, "When the sun is there, the beloved ones will help us; and we shall conquer our enemies." And we did so.

Q. Do you often think and talk of the beloved ones?

A. We think of them always, wherever we are. We talk of them and to them, at home and abroad; in peace, in war, before and after we fight; and indeed whenever and wherever we meet together.

Q. Where do you think your souls go after death?

A. We believe the souls of red men walk up and down near the place where they died, or where their bodies lie, for we have often heard cries and noises near the place where any prisoners had been burned.

Q. Where do the souls of white men go after death?

A. We cannot tell. We have not seen.

Q. Our belief is, that the souls of bad men only walk up and down; but the souls of good men go up.

A. I believe so too. But I told you the talk of the nation.

(Mr. Andrews. They said at the burying, "they knew what you was doing. You was speaking to the beloved ones above, to take up the soul of the young woman.")

Q. We have a book that tells us many things of the beloved ones above, would you be glad to know them?

A. We have no time now but to fight. If we should ever be at peace, we should be glad to know.

38 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Q. Do you expect ever to know what the white men know?

(Mr. Andrews. They told Mr. O., they believe the time will come when the red and white men will be one.)

Q. What do the French teach you?

A. The French black kings¹ never go out. We see you go about: we like that; that is good.

Q. How came your nation by the knowledge they have?

A. As soon as ever the ground was sound and fit to stand upon, it came to us, and has been with us ever since. But we are young men; our old men know more; but all of them do not know. There are but a few: whom the beloved one chooses from a child, and is in them, and takes care of them, and teaches them; they know these things: and our old men practise; therefore they know. But I do not practise; therefore I know little.

Mon. July 26. My brother and I set out for Charlestown, in order to his embarking for England; but the wind being contrary, we did not reach Port Royal, forty miles from Savannah, till Wednesday evening. The next morning we left it. But the wind was so high in the afternoon, as we were crossing the neck of St. Helena's sound, that our oldest sailor cried out, "Now every one must take care for himself." I told him, "God would take care for us all." Almost as soon as the words were spoken, the mast fell. I kept on the edge of the boat, to be clear of her when she sunk, (which we expected every moment,) though with little prospect of swimming ashore, against such a wind and sea. But, "How is it that thou hadst no faith?" The moment the mast fell, two men caught it and pulled it into the boat; the other three rowed with all their might, and "God gave command to the wind and seas," so that in an hour we were safe on land.

Sat. July 31. We came to Charlestown. The church is of brick, but plastered over like stone. I believe it would contain three or four thousand persons. About three hundred were present at the morning service the next day, (when Mr. Garden desired me to preach,) about fifty at the holy communion. I was glad to see several negroes at church; one of whom told me, "she was there constantly; and that her old mistress (now dead) had many times instructed her in the christian religion." I

¹So they call the Priests.

asked her, "what religion was?" She said, "she could not tell." I asked, "If she knew what a soul was?" She answered, "No." I said, "Do not you know there is something in you, different from your body? Something you cannot see or feel?" She replied, "I never heard so much before." I added, "Do you think then a man dies altogether as a horse dies?" She said, "Yes, to be sure." O God, where are thy tender mercies? Are they not over all thy works? When shall the Sun of Righteousness arise on these outcasts of men, with healing in his wings!

Mon. Aug. 2. I set out for the Lieutenant-Governor's seat, about thirty miles from Charlestown, to deliver Mr. Oglethorpe's letters. It stands very pleasant, on a little hill, with a vale on either side, in one of which is a thick wood; the other is planted with rice and Indian corn. I designed to have gone back by Mr. Skeene's, who has about fifty christian negroes. But my horse tiring, I was obliged to return the straight way to Charlestown.

I had sent the boat we came in back to Savannah, expecting a passage thither myself in Col. Bull's. His not going so soon, I went to Ashley-Ferry on Thursday, intending to walk to Port Royal. But Mr. Belinger not only provided me a horse, but rode with me himself ten miles, and sent his son with me to Cumbee-Ferry, twenty miles farther; whence having hired horses and a guide, I came to Beaufort (on Port-Royal) the next evening. We took boat in the morning; but the wind being contrary, and very high, did not reach Savannah till Sunday, in the afternoon.

Finding Mr. Oglethorpe was gone, I stayed only a day at Savannah; and leaving Mr. Ingham and Delamotte there, set out on Tuesday morning for Frederica. In walking to Thunderbolt, I was in so heavy a shower, that all my clothes were as wet as if I had gone through the river. On which occasion I cannot but observe that vulgar error, concerning the hurtfulness of the rains and dews of America. I have been thoroughly wet with these rains more than once; yet without any harm at all. And I have lain many nights in the open air, and received all the dews that fell: and so I believe might any one, if his constitution was not impaired by the softness of a genteel education.

At Thunderbolt we took boat, and on Friday, August

13th, came to Frederica, where I delivered Mr. O. the letters I had brought from Carolina. The next day he set out for Fort St. George. From that time I had less and less prospect of doing good at Frederica; many there being extremely zealous, and indefatigably diligent to prevent it: and few of the rest daring to show themselves of another mind, for fear of their displeasure.

Sat. 28. I set apart (out of the few we had) a few books towards a library at Frederica. In the afternoon I walked to the fort on the other side of the island. About five we set out homeward; but my guide not being perfect in the way, we were soon lost in the woods. We walked on, however, as well as we could, till between nine and ten, when being heartily tired, and thoroughly wet with dew, we laid down and slept till morning.

About day-break, on Sunday the 29th, we set out again, endeavouring to walk straight forward, and soon after sunrise found ourselves in the Great Savannah, near Frederica. By this good providence I was delivered from another fear, that of lying in the woods, which experience showed, was to one in tolerable health a mere "lion in the way."

Thur. Sept. 2. I set out in a sloop, and about ten on Sunday morning came to Skidoway; which (after reading prayers, and preaching to a small congregation) I left and came to Savannah in the evening.

Mon. 13. I began reading with Mr. Delamotte, Bishop Beveridge's *Pandecta Canonum Conciliorum*. Nothing could so effectually have convinced us, that both particular and general Councils may err, and have erred; and that things ordained by them as necessary to salvation, have neither strength nor authority, unless they be taken out of holy Scripture.

Mon. 20. We ended (of which also I must confess I once thought more highly than I ought to think) the Apostolical Canons; so called, as Bishop Beveridge observes, "because partly grounded upon, partly agreeing with, the traditions delivered down from the Apostles." But he observes farther, (in the 159th page of his *Codex Canonum Ecclesiæ Primitivæ*: and why did he not observe it in the first page of the book?) "They contain the discipline used in the Church at the time when they were collected: not when the council of Nice met: for then many parts of it were useless and obsolete."

Tues. Oct. 12. We considered if any thing could yet be done for the poor people of Frederica, and I submitted to the judgment of my friends, which was, that I should take another journey thither: Mr. Ingham undertaking to supply my place at Savannah, for the time I should stay there. I came hither on Saturday the 16th, and found few things better than I expected. The morning and evening prayers, which were read for a while after my leaving the place, had been long discontinued, and from that time every thing grew worse and worse: not many retaining any more of the form than the power of godliness.

I was at first a little discouraged, but soon remembered the word which cannot fail: "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." I cried to God to "arise and maintain his own cause;" and after the evening prayers were ended, invited a few to my house: (as I did every night while I stayed at Frederica.) I read to them one of the exhortations of Ephraim Syrus: the most awakening writer (I think) of all the ancients. We concluded our reading and conversation with a psalm, and I trust our God gave us his blessing.

Mon. 18. Finding there were several Germans at Frederica, who, not understanding the English tongue, could not join in our public service, I desired them to meet me at my house; which they did every day at noon from thence forward. We first sung a German hymn, then I read a chapter in the New Testament, then explained it to them as well as I could. After another hymn, we concluded with prayer.

Mon. 25. I took boat, and, after a slow and dangerous passage, came to Savannah on Sunday the 31st.

Tues. Nov. 23. Mr. Oglethorpe sailed for England, leaving Mr. Ingham, Mr. Delamotte and me at Savannah, but with less prospect of preaching to the Indians than we had the first day we set foot in America. Whenever I mentioned it, it was immediately replied, "You cannot leave Savannah without a Minister." To this indeed my plain answer was, "I know not that I am under any obligation to the contrary. I never promised to stay here one month. I openly declared both before, at, and ever since my coming hither, that I neither would nor could take charge of the English any longer than till I could go among the Indians." If it was said, "But did

not the Trustees of Georgia appoint you to be Minister of Savannah?" I replied, "They did; but it was not done by my solicitation: it was done without either my desire or knowledge. Therefore I cannot conceive that appointment to lay me under any obligation of continuing there any longer than till a door is opened to the heathens; and this I expressly declared at the time I consented to accept of that appointment." But though I had no other obligation not to leave Savannah now, yet that of love I could not break through: I could not resist the importunate request of the more serious parishioners, "to watch over their souls yet a little longer, till some one came who might supply my place." And this I the more willingly did, because the time was not come to preach the Gospel of peace to the heathens; all their nations being in a ferment: and Paustoobee and Mingo Mattaw having told me, in terms, in my own house, "Now our enemies are all about us, we can do nothing but fight; but if the beloved ones should ever give us to be at peace, then we would hear the great Word."

Thur. Dec. 9. Hearing of one dangerously ill, I went to her immediately: she told me, "that she had many things to say:" but her weakness prevented her saying them then; and the next day God required her soul of her.

Wed. 23. Mr. Delamotte and I, with a guide, set out to walk to the Cowpen. When we had walked two or three hours, our guide told us plainly, "he did not know where we were." However, believing it could not be far off, we thought it best to go on. In an hour or two we came to a Cypress Swamp, which lay directly across our way: there was not time to walk back to Savannah before night; so we walked through it, the water being about breast high. By that time we had gone a mile beyond it, we were out of all path; and it being now past sunset, we sat down, intending to make a fire, and to stay there till morning; but finding our tinder wet, we were at a stand. I advised to walk on still; but my companions being faint and weary, were for lying down, which we accordingly did about six o'clock: the ground was as wet as our clothes, which (it being a sharp frost) were soon froze together; however, I slept till six in the morning. There fell a heavy dew in the night, which covered us over as white as snow. Within an hour after sunrise, we

came to a plantation, and in the evening, without any hurt, to Savannah.

Tues. 28. We set out by land with a better guide for Frederica. On Wednesday evening we came to Fort Argyle, on the back of the river Ogeechee. The next afternoon we crossed Coonoochy river, in a small canoe, our horses swimming by the side of it. We made a fire on the bank, and notwithstanding the rain, slept quietly till the morning.

Sat. Jan. 1, 1737. Our provisions fell short, our journey being longer than we expected; but having a little barbecued bear's-flesh, (i.e. dried in the sun,) we boiled it, and found it wholesome food. The next day we reached Darien, the settlement of the Scotch Highlanders; a sober, industrious, friendly, hospitable people; whose minister, Mr. M'Leod, is a serious, resolute, and (I hope) a pious man.

On Monday evening we left Darien, and on Wednesday the 5th, came to Frederica. Most here were, as we expected, cold and heartless: we found not one who retained his first love. O send forth Thy light and Thy truth, that they may guide them! Let them not yet follow their own imaginations!

After having beaten the air in this unhappy place for twenty days, on January 26th I took my final leave of Frederica. It was not any apprehension of my own danger, (though my life had been threatened many times,) but an utter despair of doing good there, which made me content with the thought of seeing it no more.

In my passage home, having procured a celebrated book, the Works of Nicholas Machiavel, I set myself carefully to read and consider it. I began with a prejudice in his favour; having been informed, he had often been misunderstood, and greatly misrepresented. I weighed the sentiments that were less common; transcribed the passages wherein they were contained; compared one passage with another, and endeavoured to form a cool, impartial judgment. And my cool judgment is, that if all the other doctrines of devils which have been committed to writing since letters were in the world, were collected together in one volume, it would fall short of this; and, that should a Prince form himself by this book, so calmly recommending hypocrisy, treachery, lying, robbery, oppression, adultery, whoredom and

murder of all kinds, Domitian or Nero would be an angel of light, compared to that man.

Mon. Jan. 31. We came to Savannah. Tuesday, February 1, being the anniversary feast, on account of the first convoy's landing in Georgia, we had a sermon and the holy communion. Thursday, 24. It was agreed Mr. Ingham should go for England, and endeavour to bring over, if it should please God, some of our friends to strengthen our hands in his work. Saturday, 26. He left Savannah.

By Mr. Ingham I writ to Dr. Bray's associates, who had sent a parochial library to Savannah. It is expected of the Ministers who receive these to send an account to their benefactors of the method they use in catechising the children, and instructing the youth of their respective parishes. That part of the letter was as follows:—

“Our general method is this: A young gentleman, who came with me, teaches between thirty and forty children to read, write, and cast accounts. Before school in the morning, and after school in the afternoon, he catechises the lowest class, and endeavours to fix something of what was said in their understandings as well as their memories. In the evening, he instructs the larger children. On Saturday, in the afternoon, I catechise them all. The same I do on Sunday, before the evening service. And in the church, immediately after the second lesson, a select number of them having repeated the catechism and been examined in some part of it, I endeavour to explain at large, and to enforce that part both on them and the congregation.

“Some time after the evening service, as many of my parishioners as desire it, meet at my house, (as they do also on Wednesday evening,) and spend about an hour in prayer, singing and mutual exhortation. A smaller number (mostly those who design to communicate the next day) meet here on Saturday evening; and a few of these come to me on the other evenings, and pass half an hour in the same employment.”

Fri. March 4. I writ the Trustees for Georgia an account of our year's expense, from March 1, 1736, to March 1, 1737; which, deducting extraordinary expenses, such as repairing the parsonage house, and journies to Frederica, amounted, for Mr. Delamotte and me, to 44*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

From the directions I received from God this day, touching an affair of the greatest importance, I could not but observe, as I had done many times before, the entire mistake of those who assert, "God will not answer your prayer, unless your heart be wholly resigned to his will." My heart was not wholly resigned to his will. Therefore, not daring to depend on my own judgment, I cried the more earnestly to him to supply what was wanting in me. And I know, and am assured, he heard my voice and did send forth his light and his truth.

Thur. 24. A fire broke out in the house of Robert Hows, and in an hour burnt it to the ground: a collection was made for him the next day, and the generality of the people showed a surprising willingness to give a little out of their little for the relief of a necessity greater than their own.

About this time Mr. Lacy, of Thunderbolt, called upon me; when, observing him to be in a deep sadness, I asked what was the reason of it: and a terrible one indeed he gave, in the relation following:—

"In 1733, David Jones, a saddler, a middle-aged man, who had for some time before lived at Nottingham, being at Bristol, met a person there who, after giving him some account of Georgia, asked whether he would go thither? adding, his trade (that of a saddler) was an exceeding good trade there, upon which he might live creditably and comfortably. He objected his want of money to pay his passage and buy some tools, which he should have need of. The gentleman (Capt. W.) told him, he would supply him with that, and hire him a shop when he came to Georgia, wherein he might follow his business, and so repay him as it suited his convenience. Accordingly to Georgia they went; where, soon after his arrival, his master (as he now styled himself) sold him to Mr. Lacy, who set him to work with the rest of his servants, in clearing land. He commonly appeared much more thoughtful than the rest, often stealing into the woods alone. He was now sent to do some work on an island, three or four miles from Mr. Lacy's great plantation. Thence he desired the other servants to return without him, saying he would stay and kill a deer. This was on Saturday. On Monday they found him on the shore, with his gun by him and the forepart of his head shot to pieces. In his pocket was a paper book; all the

46 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

leaves thereof were fair, except one, on which ten or twelve verses were written; two of which were these: (which I transcribed thence from his own handwriting:)

Death could not a more sad retinue find;
Sickness and pain before, and darkness all behind!"

Sun. April 3, and every day in this great and holy week, we had a sermon and the holy communion.

Mon. 4. I began learning Spanish, in order to converse with my Jewish parishioners, some of whom seem nearer the mind that was in Christ than many of those who call him Lord.

Tues. 12. Being determined, if possible, to put a stop to the proceedings of one in Carolina, who had married several of my parishioners without either banns or licence, and declared, "he would do so still," I set out in a sloop for Charlestown. I landed there on Thursday, and related the case to Mr. Garden, the Bishop of London's Commissary, who assured me, "he would take care no such irregularity should be committed for the future."

Sun. 17. Mr. Garden (to whom I must ever acknowledge myself indebted for many kind and generous offices) desiring me to preach, I did so, on those words of the epistle for the day: "Whatsoever is born of God, overcometh the world." To that plain account of the christian state which these words naturally led me to give, a man of education and character seriously objected, (what is indeed a great truth,) "Why, if this be Christianity, a Christian must have more courage than Alexander the Great."

Tues. 19, we left Charlestown; but meeting with stormy and contrary winds, after losing our anchor and beating out at sea all night, on Thursday the 21st we with some difficulty got back into Charlestown harbour.

Fri. 22. It being the time of their annual visitation, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Clergy of South Carolina; among whom, in the afternoon, there was such a conversation for several hours on "Christ our Righteousness," as I had not heard at any visitation in England, or hardly on any other occasion.

Sat. 23. Mentioning to Mr. Thompson, Minister of St. Bartholomew's, near Ponpon, my being disappointed of a passage home by water, he offered me one of his horses, if I would go by land, which I gladly accepted of. He went with me twenty miles, and sent his servant

to guide me the other twenty to his house. Finding a young negro there, who seemed more sensible than the rest, I asked her how long she had been in Carolina? She said, two or three years; but that she was born in Barbadoes, and had lived there in a Minister's family from a child. I asked whether she went to church there? She said, "Yes, every Sunday,—to carry my mistress's children." I asked, what she had learned at church? She said, "Nothing; I heard a deal, but did not understand it." But what did your master teach you at home? "Nothing." Nor your mistress? "No." I asked, "But don't you know, that your hands and feet, and this you call your body, will turn to dust in a little time?" She answered, "Yes." "But there is something in you that will not turn to dust, and this is what they call your soul. Indeed, you cannot see your soul, though it is within you, as you cannot see the wind, though it is all about you. But if you had not a soul in you, you could no more see, or hear, or feel, than this table can. What do you think will become of your soul, when your body turns to dust?" "I don't know." "Why, it will go out of your body, and go up there, above the sky, and live always. God lives there. Do you know who God is?" "No." "You cannot see him, any more than you can see your own soul. It is he that made you and me, and all men and women, and all beasts and birds, and all the world. It is he that makes the sun shine and rain fall, and corn and fruits to grow out of the ground. He makes all these for us. But why do you think he made us? What did he make you and me for?" "I can't tell." "He made you to live with himself above the sky. And so you will, in a little time,—if you are good. If you are good, when your body dies, your soul will go up, and want nothing, and have whatever you can desire. No one will beat or hurt you there. You will never be sick. You will never be sorry any more, nor afraid of any thing. I can't tell you, I don't know how happy you will be, for you will be with God."

The attention with which this poor creature listened to instruction is inexpressible. The next day she remembered all, readily answered every question; and said, "She would ask him that made her, to show her how to be good."

Sun. 24. I preached twice at Ponpon chapel, on the

thirteenth chapter of the first epistle to the Corinthians. O how will even those men of Carolina, who come eight, ten, or twelve miles to hear the Gospel, rise in judgment against those who hear it not, when it is preached at their own doors!

Wed. 27. I came to Mr. Belinger's plantation at Chulifinny, where the rain kept me till Friday. Here I met with an half Indian, (one that had an Indian mother and a Spanish father,) and several negroes, who were very desirous of instruction. One of them said, "When I was at Ashley-Ferry, I went to church every Sunday; but here we are buried in the woods. Though if there was any church within five or six miles, I am so lame I cannot walk, but I would crawl thither."

Mr. Belinger sent a negro lad with me to Purrysburg, or rather to the poor remains of it. O how hath God stretched over this place "the lines of confusion, and the stones of emptiness?" Alas for those whose lives were here vilely cast away, through oppression, through divers plagues and troubles! O earth! how long wilt thou hide their blood! How long wilt thou cover thy slain?

This lad too I found both very desirous and very capable of instruction. And perhaps one of the easiest and shortest ways to instruct the American negroes in Christianity, would be first to inquire after and find out some of the most serious of the planters. Then, having inquired of them, which of their slaves were best inclined and understood English, to go to them from plantation to plantation, staying as long as appeared necessary at each. Three or four gentlemen in Carolina I have been with, that would be sincerely glad of such an assistant, who might pursue his work with no more hinderances than must every where attend the preaching of the Gospel.

Sat. 30. I came to Savannah, and found my little flock in a better state than I could have expected: God having been pleased greatly to bless the endeavours of my fellow-labourer while I was absent from them.

Wed. May 18. I discovered the first convert to Deism that (I believe) has been made here. He was one that for some time had been zealously and exemplarily religious. But indulging himself in *harmless* company, he first made shipwreck of his zeal, and then of his faith. I have since found several others that have been attacked. They have as yet maintained their ground; but I doubt

the devil's apostles are too industrious to let them long halt between two opinions.

Wed. 25. I was sent for by one who had been several years of the Church of Rome; but was now deeply convinced (as were several others) by what I had occasionally preached, of the grievous errors that Church is in, and the great danger of continuing a member of it. Upon this occasion I could not but reflect on the many advices I had received, to beware of the increase of Popery: but not one (that I remember) to beware of the increase of infidelity. This was quite surprising, when I considered, 1. That in every place where I have yet been, the number of the converts to Popery bore no proportion to the number of the converts to infidelity. 2. That as bad a religion as Popery is, no religion is still worse; a baptized infidel being always found upon the trial, two-fold worse than even a bigoted Papist. 3. That as dangerous a state as a Papist is in, with regard to eternity, a Deist is in a yet more dangerous state, if he be not (without repentance) an assured heir of damnation. And, lastly, That as hard as it is to recover a Papist, it is still harder to recover an infidel: I myself having known many Papists, but never one Deist, reconverted.

May. 29. Being Whitsunday, four of our scholars, after having been instructed daily for several weeks, were, at their earnest and repeated desire, admitted to the Lord's table. I trust their zeal hath stirred up many to remember their Creator in the days of their youth, and to redeem the time, even in the midst of an evil and adulterous generation.

Indeed about this time we observed the Spirit of God to move upon the minds of many of the children. They began more carefully to attend to the things that were spoken both at home and at church, and a remarkable seriousness appeared in their whole behaviour and conversation. Who knows but some of them may "grow up to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ?"

June 25. Mr. Causton (the store-keeper and chief Magistrate of Savannah) was seized with a slow fever. I attended him every day, (as I did any of my parishioners who were in any painful or dangerous illness,) and had a good hope, from the thankfulness he showed, that my labour was not in vain.

Sun. July 3. Immediately after the holy communion, I mentioned to Mrs. Williamson (Mr. Causton's niece) something which I thought reprobable in her behaviour. At this she appeared extremely angry: said, "She did not expect such usage from me;" and at the turn of the street (through which we were walking home) went abruptly away. The next day Mrs. Causton endeavoured to excuse her; told me she was exceedingly grieved for what had passed the day before, and desired me to tell her in writing what I disliked; which I accordingly did the day following.

But first, I sent Mr. Causton the following note:—

"SIR,

"To this hour, you have shown yourself my friend: I ever have and ever shall acknowledge it. And it is my earnest desire, that He who hath hitherto given me this blessing, would continue it still.

"But this cannot be, unless you will allow me one request, which is not so easy an one as it appears: *Don't condemn me for doing, in the execution of my office, what I think is my duty to do.*

"If you can prevail upon yourself to allow me this, even when I act without respect of persons, I am persuaded there will never be, at least not long, any misunderstanding between us. For even those who seek it, shall, I trust, find no occasion against me, 'except it be concerning the law of my God.'

"July 5, 1737."

Wed. 6. Mr. Causton came to my house, with Mr. Bailiff Parker, and Mr. Recorder, and warmly asked, "How could you possibly think I should condemn you for executing any part of your office?" I said short, "Sir, what if I should think it the duty of my office to repel one of your family from the holy communion?" He replied, "If you repel me or my wife, I shall require a legal reason. But I shall trouble myself about none else. Let them look to themselves."

Sat. 9. Meeting with a Frenchman of New Orleans on the Mississippi; who had lived several months among the Chicasaws, he gave us a full and particular account of many things which had been variously related. And hence we could not but remark, What is the religion of

nature, properly so called; or, that religion which flows from natural reason, unassisted by Revelation; and that even in those who have the knowledge of many truths, and who converse with their beloved ones day and night? But too plainly does it appear by the fruits, "That the gods of these Heathens too are but devils."

The substance of his account was this: "Some years past, the Chicasaws and French were friends. The French were then mingled with the Nautchee Indians, whom they used as slaves; till the Nautchees made a general rising, and took many of the French prisoners. But soon after, a French army set upon them, killed many and carried away the rest. Among those that were killed were some Chicasaws, whose death the Chicasaw nation resented; and, soon after, a French boat was going through their country, they fired into it, and killed all the men but two. The French resolved on revenge, and orders were given for many Indians and several parties of white men, to rendezvous on the twenty-sixth of March 1736, near one of the Chicasaw towns. The first party, consisting of fifty men, came thither some days before the time. They staid there till the 24th, but none came to join them. On the 25th they were attacked by two hundred Chicasaws. The French attempted to force their way through them. Five or six and twenty did so; the rest were taken prisoners. The prisoners were sent two or three to a town to be burned. Only the commanding officer and one or two more were put to death on the place of the engagement.

"I (said he) and one more, were saved by the warrior who took us. The manner of burning the rest was, holding lighted canes to their arms and legs and several parts of their bodies for some time, and then for a while taking them away. They likewise stuck burning pieces of wood into their flesh all round, in which condition they kept them from morning till evening. But they commonly beat them before they burn them. I saw the Priest that was with us carried to be burned; and from head to foot, he was as black as your coat with the blows which they had given him."

I asked him, "What was their manner of life?" He said, "They do nothing but eat, and drink, and smoke, from morning till night, and, in a manner, from night till morning. For they rise at any hour of the night when

they wake, and after eating and drinking as much as they can, go to sleep again." See the religion of nature truly delineated!

Sat. 23. Reflecting on the state I was now in, I could not but observe in a letter to a friend, "How to attain to the being crucified with Christ, I find not, being in a condition I neither desired nor expected in America, in ease and honour and abundance. A strange school for him who has but one business, *Γυμνάζειν ἑαυτὸν πρὸς εὐσέβειαν*.¹

Wed. 27. I rejoiced to meet once more with that good soldier of Jesus Christ, August. Spangenberg; with whom on Monday, August 1, I began my long-intended journey to Ebenezer. In the way I told him, "The calm we had so long enjoyed was now drawing to an end: that I hoped he would shortly see I was not (as some had told him) a respecter of persons; but was determined (God being my helper) to behave indifferently to all, rich or poor, friends or enemies." I then asked his advice as to the difficulty I foresaw, and resolved, by God's grace, to follow it.

In the evening we came to New-Ebenezer, where the poor Saltzburghers are settled. The industry of this people is quite surprising. Their sixty huts are neatly and regularly built, and all the little spots of ground between them, improved to the best advantage. On one side of the town is a field of Indian corn; on the other are the plantations of several private persons; all which together one would scarce think it possible for a handful of people to have done in one year.

Wed. Aug. 3. We returned to Savannah. Sunday, 7, I repelled Mrs. Williamson from the holy communion. And Monday, 8, Mr. Recorder of Savannah issued out the warrant following:—

Georgia. Savannah ss.

"To all Constables, Tithingmen, and others, whom these may concern:

"You and each of you are hereby required to take the body of John Wesley, Clerk:

"And bring him before one of the bailiffs of the said town, to answer the complaint of William Williamson and Sophia his wife, for defaming the said Sophia, and refusing to administer to her the Sacrament of the Lord's

¹To exercise himself unto godliness.

Supper, in a public congregation, without cause; by which the said William Williamson is damaged one thousand pound sterling: And for so doing, this is your warrant, certifying what you are to do in the premises. Given under my hand and seal the 8th day of Aug. *Anno Dom.* 1737.

“Tho. Christie.”

Tues. 9. Mr. Jones the constable served the warrant, and carried me before Mr. Bailiff Parker and Mr. Recorder. My answer to them was, that “The giving or refusing the Lord’s Supper being a matter purely ecclesiastical, I could not acknowledge their power to interrogate me upon it.” Mr. Parker told me, “However, you must appear at the next Court, holden for Savannah.” Mr. Williamson (who stood by) said, “Gentlemen, I desire Mr. Wesley may give bail for his appearance.” But Mr. Parker immediately replied, “Sir, Mr. Wesley’s word is sufficient.”

Wed. 10. Mr. Causton (from a just regard, as his letter expressed it, to the friendship which had subsisted between us till this affair) required me to give the reasons in the Court-house, why I repelled Mrs. Williamson from the Holy Communion? I answered, “I apprehend many ill consequences may arise from so doing: Let the cause be laid before the Trustees.”

Thur. 11. Mr. Causton came to my house, and among many other sharp words said, “Make an end of this matter; thou hadst best. My niece to be used thus! I have drawn the sword, and I will never sheath it till I have satisfaction.”

Soon after he added, “Give the reasons of your repelling her, before the whole congregation.” I answered, “Sir, if you insist upon it, I will; and so you may be pleased to tell her.” He said, “Write to her, and tell her so yourself.” I said, “I will;” and after he went, I wrote as follows:—

“To Mrs. Sophia Williamson.

“At Mr. Causton’s request, I write once more. The rules whereby I proceed are these:—

“So many as intend to be partakers of the Holy Communion, shall signify their names to the Curate, at least some time the day before. This you did not do.

“And if any of these—have done any wrong to his

54 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

neighbours, by word or deed, so that the congregation be thereby offended, the Curate—shall advertise him, that in any wise he presume not to come to the Lord's table, until he hath openly declared himself to have truly repented.

"If you offer yourself at the Lord's table on Sunday, I will advertise you (as I have done more than once) wherein you have done wrong: And when you have openly declared yourself to have truly repented, I will administer to you the mysteries of God.

"Aug. 11, 1737.

"John Wesley."

Mr. Delamotte carrying this, Mr. Causton said, among many other warm sayings, "I am the person that am injured; the affront is offered to me; and I will espouse the cause of my niece. I am ill used; and I will have satisfaction, if it be to be had in the world."

Which way this satisfaction was to be had, I did not yet conceive; but on Friday and Saturday it began to appear. Mr. Causton declared to many persons, that "Mr Wesley had repelled Sophy from the Holy Communion, purely out of revenge; because he had made proposals of marriage to her, which she rejected, and married Mr. Williamson."

I could not but observe the gracious providence of God, in the course of the Lessons, all this week. On Monday evening God spake to us in these words: "Call to remembrance the former days, in which you endured a great fight of afflictions: partly, whilst ye were made a gazing-stock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.—Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

The evening Lesson on Tuesday, was the 11th of the Hebrews; in reading which, I was more particularly encouraged by his example, who "chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt."

The Lesson on Wednesday began with these words: "Wherefore seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight,—and

run with patience the race that is set before us; looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

In the Thursday Lesson were these comfortable words: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." So that we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper; and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

The words of St. James, read on Friday, were, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation:" and those on Saturday, "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ—with respect of persons."

I was only afraid, lest those who were weak, should "be turned out of the way," at least, so far as to forsake the public "assembling of themselves together." But I feared where no fear was. God took care of this also. So that on Sunday the 14th, more were present at the morning prayers than had been for some months before. Many of them observed those words in the first Lesson: "Set Naboth on high among the people: and set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him."

Tues. 16. Mrs. Williamson swore to and signed an affidavit, insinuating much more than it asserted; but asserting, "That Mr. Wesley had many times proposed marriage to her; all which proposals she had rejected." Of this I desired a copy. Mr. Causton replied, "Sir, you may have one from any of the newspapers in America."

On Thursday or Friday was delivered out a list of twenty-six men, who were to meet, as a Grand Jury, on Monday the 22d. But this list was called in the next day, and twenty-four names added to it. Of this Grand Jury, (forty-four of whom only met,) one was a Frenchman, who did not understand English, one a Papist, one a professed Infidel, three Baptists, sixteen or seventeen others, Dissenters; and several others who had personal quarrels against me, and had openly avowed revenge.

To this Grand Jury, on Monday the 22d, Mr. Causton gave a long and earnest charge, "To beware of spiritual tyranny, and to oppose the new, illegal authority which was usurped over their consciences." Then Mrs. Williamson's affidavit was read: after which Mr. Causton delivered to the Grand Jury a paper, entitled—

56 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

"A list of grievances, presented by the Grand Jury for Savannah, this day of August, 1737."

This the majority of the Grand Jury altered, in some particulars; and on Thursday, September 1, delivered it again to the Court, under the form of two presentments, containing ten bills, which were then read to the people.

Herein they asserted, upon oath, "That John Wesley, Clerk, had broken the laws of the realm, contrary to the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, his crown and dignity.

"1. By speaking and writing to Mrs. Williamson, against her husband's consent.

"2. By repelling her from the Holy Communion.

"3. By not declaring his adherence to the Church of England.

"4. By dividing the morning service on Sundays.

"5. By refusing to baptize Mr. Parker's child, otherwise than by dipping, except the parents would certify it was weak, and not able to bear it.

"6. By repelling William Gough from the Holy Communion.

"7. By refusing to read the burial service over the body of Nathaniel Polhill.

"8. By calling himself Ordinary of Savannah.

"9. By refusing to receive William Aglionby, as a godfather, only because he was not a communicant.

"10. By refusing Jacob Matthews for the same reason; and baptizing an Indian trader's child with only two sponsors." (This, I own, was wrong; for I ought, at all hazards, to have refused baptizing it till he had procured a third.)

Fri. 2. Was the third Court at which I appeared since my being carried before Mr. P. and the Recorder.

I now moved for an immediate hearing on the first bill, being the only one of a civil nature: but it was refused. I made the same motion in the afternoon; but was put off till the next Court-day.

On the next Court-day I appeared again; as also at the two Courts following; but could not be heard, "Because, (the Judge said) Mr. Williamson was gone out of town."

The sense of the minority of the Grand Jurors themselves (for they were by no means unanimous) concerning these presentments, may appear from the following paper, which they transmitted to the Trustees:

"To the Honourable the Trustees of Georgia."

"Whereas, two presentments have been made, the one of August 23, the other of August 31, by the Grand Jury for the Town and County of Savannah in Georgia, against John Wesley, Clerk.

"We, whose names are underwritten, being members of the said Grand Jury, do humbly beg leave to signify our dislike of the said presentments; being, by many and divers circumstances, thoroughly persuaded in ourselves, that the whole charge against Mr. Wesley is an artifice of Mr. Causton's, designed rather to blacken the character of Mr. Wesley, than to free the Colony from religious tyranny, as he was pleased in his charge to us to term it. But as these circumstances will be too tedious to trouble your honours with, we shall only beg leave to give the reasons of our dissent from the particular bills.

"With regard to the first bill, we do not apprehend that Mr. Wesley acted against any law, by writing or speaking to Mrs. Williamson; since it does not appear to us, that the said Mr. Wesley has either spoke in private, or wrote to the said Mrs. Williamson, since March 12, (the day of her marriage,) except one letter of July the 5th, which he wrote at the request of her uncle, as a Pastor, to exhort and reprove her.

"The second we do not apprehend to be a true bill; because we humbly conceive Mr. Wesley did not assume to himself any authority contrary to law: for we understand, 'Every person intending to communicate should signify his name to the Curate, at least some time the day before,' which Mrs. Williamson did not do; although Mr. Wesley had often, in full congregation, declared, 'he did insist on a compliance with that rubric, and had before repelled divers persons for non-compliance therewith.'

"The third we do not think a true bill; because several of us have been his hearers, when he has declared his adherence to the Church of England, in a stronger manner than by a formal declaration; by explaining and defending the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, the Thirty-nine Articles, the whole Book of Common-Prayer, and the Homilies of the said Church; and because we think a formal declaration is not required, but from those who have received institution and induction.

"The fact alleged in the fourth bill we cannot apprehend to be contrary to any law in being.

"The fifth we do not think a true bill; because we conceive Mr. Wesley is justified by the rubric, viz. 'If they (the parents) certify that the child is weak, it shall suffice to pour water upon it.' Intimating, (as we humbly suppose,) it shall not suffice, if they do not certify.

"The sixth cannot be a true bill; because the said William Gough, being one of our members, was surprised to hear himself named, without his knowledge or privity; and did publicly declare, 'It was no grievance to him, because the said John Wesley had given him reasons with which he was satisfied.'

"The seventh we do not apprehend to be a true bill; for Nathaniel Polhill was an Anabaptist, and desired in his life-time, that he might not be interred with the office of the Church of England. And farther, we have good reason to believe, that Mr. Wesley was at Frederica, or on his return thence, when Polhill was buried.

"As to the eighth bill we are in doubt, as not well knowing the meaning of the word Ordinary. But for the ninth and tenth, we think Mr. Wesley is sufficiently justified by the Canons of the Church, which forbid 'any person to be admitted Godfather or Godmother to any child, before the said person has received the Holy Communion;' whereas William Aglionby and Jacob Matthews had never certified Mr. Wesley that they had received it."

This was signed by twelve of the Grand Jurors, of whom three were constables, and six more tithingmen: who consequently would have made a majority, had the Jury consisted, as it regularly should have done, of only fifteen members, viz. the four constables and eleven tithingmen.

Fri. Sept. 30. Having ended the Homilies, I began reading Dr. Rogers's eight sermons to the congregation; hoping they might be a timely antidote against the poison of Infidelity, which was now with great industry propagated among us.

Oct. the 7th, I consulted my friends, whether God did not call me to return to England? The reason for which I left it had now no force; there being no possibility as yet of instructing the Indians; neither had I as yet found or heard of any Indians on the Continent of America,

who had the least desire of being instructed. And as to Savannah, having never engaged myself, either by word or letter, to stay there a day longer than I should judge convenient, nor ever taken charge of the people any otherwise than as in my passage to the Heathens, I looked upon myself to be fully discharged therefrom, by the vacating of that design. Besides, there was a probability of doing more service to that unhappy people in England, than I could do in Georgia, by representing without fear or favour to the Trustees, the real state the colony was in. After deeply considering these things, they were unanimous, "That I ought to go; but not yet." So I laid the thoughts of it aside for the present; being persuaded, that when the time was come, God would "make the way plain before my face."

Sat. Oct. 15. Being at Highgate, a village five miles from Savannah, consisting of (all but one) French families, who, I found, knew but little of the English tongue, I offered to read prayers there in French every Saturday in the afternoon. They embraced the offer gladly. On Saturday the twenty-second I read prayers in German likewise, to the German villagers of Hampstead; and so continued to do, once a week. We began the service (both at Highgate and Hampstead) with singing a psalm. Then I read and explained a chapter in the French or German Testament, and concluded with prayers and another psalm.

Sat. Oct. 29. Some of the French of Savannah were present at the prayers at Highgate. The next day I received a message from them all, "That as I read prayers to the French of Highgate, who were but few, they hoped I would do the same to those of Savannah, where there was a large number who did not understand English." Sunday the thirtieth, I began so to do; and now I had full employment for that holy day. The first English prayers lasted from five till half an hour past six. The Italian (which I read to a few Vaudois) began at nine. The second service for the English (including the sermon and the Holy Communion) continued from half an hour past ten, till about half an hour past twelve. The French service began at one. At two I catechised the children. About three began the English service. After this was ended, I had the happiness of joining with as many as my largest room would hold, in reading,

60 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

prayer, and singing praise; and about six the service of the Moravians, so called, began: at which I was glad to be present, not as a teacher, but a learner.

Thur. Nov. 3. I appeared again at the Court, holden on that day; and again, at the Court held Tuesday, November the twenty-second, on which day Mr. Causton desired to speak with me. He then read me some affidavits which had been made, September the fifteenth, last past; in one of which it was affirmed, "That I then abused Mr. Causton in his own house, called him liar, villain, and so on." It was now likewise repeated before several persons, (which indeed I had forgot,) "That I had been reprimanded at the last Court, for an enemy to, and hinderer of, the public peace."

I again consulted my friends, who agreed with me, that the time we looked for was now come. And the next morning calling on Mr. Causton, I told him, "I designed to set out for England immediately." I set up an advertisement in the Great Square to the same effect, and quietly prepared for my journey.

Fri. Dec. 2. I proposed to set out for Carolina about noon, the tide then serving. But about ten the magistrates sent for me, and told me, "I must not go out of the Province; for I had not answered the allegations laid against me." I replied, "I have appeared at six or seven Courts successively, in order to answer them; but I was not suffered so to do, when I desired it time after time." Then they said, "However, I must not go, unless I would give security to answer those allegations at their Court." I asked, "What security?" After consulting together about two hours, the Recorder showed me a kind of bond, engaging me, under a penalty of fifty pounds, to appear at their Court when I should be required." He added, "But Mr. Williamson too has desired of us, that you should give bail to answer his action." I then told him plainly, "Sir, you use me very ill, and so you do the Trustees. I will give neither any bond, nor any bail at all. You know your business, and I know mine."

In the afternoon the magistrates published an order, requiring all the officers and sentinels to prevent my going out of the Province; and forbidding any person to assist me so to do. Being now only a prisoner at large, in a place where I knew by experience every day would give fresh opportunity to procure evidence of words I never

said, and actions I never did, I saw clearly the hour was come for leaving this place; and as soon as evening prayers were over, about eight o'clock, the tide then serving, I shook off the dust of my feet, and left Georgia, after having preached the gospel there (not as I ought, but as I was able) one year and nearly nine months.

During this time I had frequent opportunities of making many observations and inquiries concerning the real state of this Province, (which has been so variously represented,) the English settlements therein, and the Indians that have intercourse with them. These I minuted down from time to time; a small extract of which I have subjoined.

1. Georgia lies in the 30th and 31st degree of north latitude. The air is generally clear, the rains being much shorter, as well as heavier, than in England. The dews are very great. Thunder and lightning are expected almost every day, in May, June, July, and August. They are very terrible, especially to a stranger. During those months, from ten in the morning to four in the afternoon, the sun is extremely scorching: But the sea breeze generally blows from ten till three or four. The winter is nearly of the same length as in England. But the mid-day sun is always warm, even when the mornings and evenings are very sharp, and the nights piercing cold.

2. The land is of four sorts, pine-barren, oak-land, swamp, and marsh. The pine-land is of far the greatest extent, especially near the sea-coasts. The soil of this is a dry, whitish sand, producing shrubs of several sorts, and between them a spiry, coarse grass, which cattle do not love to feed on. But here and there is a little of a better kind, especially in the savannahs: (so they call the low, watery meadows, which are usually intermixed with pine-lands.) It bears naturally two sorts of fruit, hurtleberries, (much like those in England,) and Chincopin-nuts; a dry, harsh nut, about the size of a small acorn. A laborious man may in one year clear and plant four or five acres of this land; it will produce, the first year, from two to four bushels of Indian corn, and from four to eight of Indian pease per acre. The second year it usually bears half as much; the third, less; the fourth, nothing.

3. Vines, mulberries, and peach-trees, it bears well. The white mulberry is not good to eat. The black is

about the size of a blackberry, and has much the same flavour. In fresh pine-land Indian potatoes grow well; (which are more luscious and larger than the Irish;) and so do water-melons and sewec-beans, about the size of our scarlet, but to be shelled and eaten like Windsor beans.

4. Oak-land commonly lies in narrow streaks between pine-land and some swamp, creek or river. The soil is a blackish sand, producing several kinds of oak, (though none exactly like the English,) bay, laurel, ash, walnut, sumac-trees, gum-trees, (a sort of sycamore,) dog trees, (covered in spring with large white flowers,) and many hickory-trees, which bear a bad kind of walnut. In the moistest part of this land some porsimmon-trees grow, (which bear a sort of yellow, clear, luscious plumb,) and a few mulberry and cherry-trees. The common wild grapes are of two sorts, both red; the fox-grape grows two or three only on a stalk, is thick skinned, large-stoned, of a harsh taste, and of the size of a small Kentish cherry. The cluster-grape is of a harsh taste too, and about the size of a white currant.

5. This land requires much labour to clear; but when it is cleared, it will bear any grain, for three, four, or sometimes five years, without laying any manure upon it. An acre of it generally bears ten bushels of Indian corn, besides five of pease, in a year; so that this at present is justly esteemed the most valuable land in the Province.

6. A swamp is any low, watery place, which is covered with trees or canes. They are here of three sorts, cypress, river, and cane swamps. Cypress swamps are, mostly, large ponds, in and round which cypresses grow. Most river-swamps are overflown every tide, by the river which runs through or near them. If they were drained, they would produce good rice, as would the cane-swamps also; which in the mean time are the best feeding for all sorts of cattle.

7. The marshes are of two sorts: soft marsh, which is all a quagmire, and absolutely good for nothing; and hard marsh, which is a firm, but barren sand, bearing only sower rushes. Marshes of both sorts abound on the sea islands, which are very numerous, and contain all sorts of land; and upon these chiefly, near creeks and runs of water, juniper-trees and cedars grow.

8. Savannah stands on a flat *bluff*, (so they term any

high-land hanging over a creek or river,) which rises forty-five feet perpendicular from the river, and commands it several miles both upward and downward. The soil is a white sand for above a mile in breadth south-east and north-west. Beyond this, eastward, is a river-swamp; westward a small wood, in which was the old Indian town. On the other side of the river is a marshy island, covered with large trees. South-west of the town is a large pine-barren, which extends backward to a branch of the Alatomahaw river.

9. St. Simon's Island, having on the south-east the Gulf of Florida; on the other sides, branches of the Alatomahaw, is about one hundred miles south of Savannah, and extends in length about twenty, in breadth from two to five miles. On the west side of it, on a low bluff, stands Frederica, having woods to the north and south; to the east, partly woods, partly savannahs, and partly marshes. The soil is mostly a blackish sand. There is not much pine-land on the island; the greatest part being oak-land, intermixed with many savannahs, and old Spanish or Indian fields.

10. On the sea-point, about five miles south-east of the town, is the fort where the soldiers are stationed. But the storehouse in Frederica better deserves that name; being encompassed with regular ramparts of earth, and a palisaded ditch, and mounted with cannon, which entirely command the river.

11. About twenty miles north-west from St. Simon's is Darien, the settlement of the Scotch Highlanders, a mile from Fort King George, which was built about seventeen and abandoned about eleven years since. The town lies on the main land, close to a branch of the Alatomahaw, on a bluff about thirty feet above the river, having woods on all sides. The soil is a blackish sand. They built at first many scattered huts; but last spring, (1736,) expecting the Spaniards, they built themselves a large fort, and all retired within the walls of it.

12. Augusta, distant from Savannah one hundred and fifty miles, and five from old Savannah Town, is designed to stand in an old Indian field, on a bluff about thirty feet high. A small fort of wooden piles was built there in 1737; but no house was then built, nor any more ground cleared than Mr. Lacy and his men found so.

13. Old Ebenezer, where the Saltzburghers settled at

first, lies twenty-five miles west of Savannah. A small creek runs by the town, down to the river, and many brooks run between the little hills; but the soil is a hungry, barren sand; and upon any sudden shower, the brooks rise several feet perpendicular, and overflow whatever is near them. Since the Saltzburghers removed, two English families have been placed there; but these too say, "That the land is good for nothing, and that the creek is of little use; it being by water twenty miles to the river; and the water generally so low in summer-time, that a boat cannot come within six or seven miles of the town."

14. New Ebenezer, to which the Saltzburghers removed in March 1736, lies six miles eastward from the old, on a high bluff, near the Savannah river. Here are some tracts of fruitful land, though the greatest part of that adjoining to the town is pine-barren. The huts, sixty in number, are neatly and regularly built; the little piece of ground allotted to each for a garden is every where put to the best use, no spot being left unplanted. Nay, even one of the main streets, being one more than was as yet wanted, bore them this year a crop of Indian corn.

15. About ten miles east of this, on a creek, three miles from the river, was the village of Abercorn. Ten families settled here in 1733; but it is now without inhabitant. Four miles below the mouth of Abercorn-Creek is Joseph's Town, the settlement of two Scotch gentlemen. A mile below was Sir Francis Bathurst's plantation; and a quarter of a mile from this, Walter Augustine's settlement: but both these are left without inhabitant.

16. A mile below this is Captain Williams's plantation: a mile from thence, Mrs. Matthews's, (late Musgrove,) commonly known by the name of the Cowpen; adjoining to which is the land belonging to Captain Watson; on which is an unfinished house, swiftly running to ruin. A mile from this is Irene; a house built for an Indian school, in the year 1736. It stands on a small round hill, in a little piece of fruitful ground, given by the Indians to Mr. Ingham. The Indian town is within a furlong of it.

17. Five miles south-west of Savannah, on a small rise, stands the village of Highgate. It has pine-land on three sides, and a swamp on the fourth. Twelve families were placed here in 1733; nine whereof remain there. A mile

eastward of this is Hampstead, settled with twelve families also, a little before Highgate, five of which are still remaining.

18. Six miles south-east of Savannah is Thunderbolt. Three families are settled here, near a small ruinous fort. Four miles south of this is the island of Skidoway; on the north-east point whereof ten families were placed in 1734, (a small fort was built here likewise,) but nine of them are either dead or removed to other places. A small creek divides Skidoway from Tybee island, on the south-east part of which, fronting the inlet, the light-house is built. Ten families were settled here in 1734; but they are part dead, and part removed, so that the island is now again without any fixed inhabitant.

19. Twelve miles southward from Savannah, (by land,) is Mr. Houstoun's plantation; and forty or fifty miles from him, up Ogeechee river, that where Mr. Sterling for some time lived. Fort Argyle stands twenty miles from this, on a high bluff, by the river Ogeechee. It is a small, square, wooden fort, musket-proof. Ten freeholders were settled near it; but eight of them are gone, and the land they had cleared, lying waste, will in a few years be as it was before.

20. The southermost settlement in Georgia, is Fort St. Andrew. It stands fifty miles south of Frederica, on the south-west side of Cumberland Island, upon a high neck of land, which commands the river both ways. The walls are of wood, filled up with earth, round which are a ditch and palisade.

21. It is hard to pick out any consistent account of the Georgian Indians, from the contradictory relations of their traders. The following is extracted, partly from those wherein all, or the generality of them agree; partly from the relations of such as have been occasionally amongst them, and have no interest in making them better or worse than they are.

22. Of the Georgian Indians in general it may be observed, that they are not so properly nations, as tribes or clans, who have wandered thither at different times; perhaps expelled their native countries by stronger tribes; but how or when they cannot tell, being none of them able to give any rational account of themselves. They are inured to hardships of all kinds, and surprisingly patient of pain. But as they have no letters, so they

have no religion, no laws, no civil government. Nor have they any Kings or Princes, properly speaking; their Meekos or head-men having no power either to command or punish, no man obeying them any farther than he pleases, so that everyone doeth what is right in his own eyes; and if it appears wrong to his neighbour, the person aggrieved usually steals on the other unawares, and shoots him, scalps him, or cuts off his ears; having only two short rules of proceeding, to do what he will, and what he can.

23. They are likewise all, except (perhaps) the Choctaws, gluttons, drunkards, thieves, dissemblers, liars. They are implacable, unmerciful; murderers of fathers, murderers of mothers, murderers of their own children; it being a common thing for a son to shoot his father or mother, because they are old and past labour; and for a woman either to procure abortion, or to throw her child into the next river, because she will go with her husband to the war. Indeed husbands, strictly speaking, they have none; for any man leaves his wife (so called) at pleasure, who frequently, in return, cuts the throats of all the children she has had by him. Whoredom they account no crime, and few instances appear of a young Indian woman's refusing any one. Nor have they any fixed punishment for adultery; only, if the husband take his wife with another man he will do what he can to both, unless speedily pacified by the present of a gun or a blanket.

24. The Choctaws only have some appearance of an entire nation, possessing a large extent of land, eight or nine hundred miles west of Savannah, and many well inhabited towns. They are said to have six thousand fighting men, united under one head. At present they are in league with the French, who have sent some Priests among them; by whom (if one may credit the Choctaw traders) ten or twelve have been baptized.

25. Next to these, to the north-east, are the Chicasaws. Their country is flat, full of meadows, springs, and rivers. In their fields, though six or seven hundred miles from the sea, are found sea-shells in great numbers. They have about nine hundred fighting men, ten towns, and one Meeko (at least) in every one. They are eminently gluttons, eating, drinking, and smoking all day, and almost all night. They are extremely indolent and lazy

except in war; then they are the most indefatigable and the most valiant of all the Indians; but they are equally cruel with the rest, torturing and burning all their prisoners, whether Indian or European.

26. East of them, in the latitude of 35 and 36, about three or four hundred miles from Savannah, lie the Cherikees. Their country is very mountainous, fruitful, and pleasant. They have fifty-two towns, and above three thousand fighting men. In each town are three or more head-men, who keep up a sort of shadow of government, having power to set the rest to work, and to punish such as will not join in the common labour. They are civil to strangers, and will do any thing for them for pay: being always willing for a small piece of money to carry a message fifty or sixty miles, and, if required, a heavy burden too; but they are equally cruel to prisoners with the Chicasaws, though not equally valiant. They are seldom intemperate in drinking, but when they can be so on free cost. Otherwise, love of drink yields to covetousness; a vice scarcely to be found in any Indian but a Cherikee.

27. The Uchees have only one small town left, (near two hundred miles from Savannah,) and about forty fighting men. The Creeks have been many times on the point of cutting them off. They are, indeed, hated by most, and despised by all the other nations, as well for their cowardice as their superlative diligence in thieving, and for out-lying all the Indians upon the continent.

28. The Creek Indians are about four hundred miles from Savannah. They are said to be bounded on the west by the Choctaws, to the north by the Chicasaws, to the east by the Cherikees, and to the south by the Alatomahaw River. They have many towns, a plain, well watered country, and fifteen hundred fighting men. They have often three or four Meekos in a town; but without so much as the shadow of authority, only to give advice, which every one is at liberty to take or leave. But age and reputation for valour and wisdom, have given Chicali, a Meeko of the Coweta-town, a more than ordinary influence over the nation; though not even the show of regal power. Yet neither age, wisdom, nor reputation can restrain him from drunkenness. Indeed, all the Creeks, having been most conversant with white men, are most infected with insatiate love of drink, as

well as other European vices. They are more exquisite dissemblers than the rest of their countrymen: they know not what friendship or gratitude means: they show no inclination to learn any thing, but least of all Christianity; being full as opiated of their own parts and wisdom as either modern Chinese or ancient Romans.

Sat. Dec. 3. We came to Purrysburg early in the morning, and endeavoured to procure a guide to Port-Royal. But none being to be had, we set out without one, an hour before sunrise. After walking two or three hours we met with an old man, who led us into a small path, near which was a line of *blazed* trees, (i.e. marked by cutting off part of the bark,) by following which, he said, we might easily come to Port-Royal in five or six hours.

We were four in all; one of whom intended to go to England with me, the other two to settle in Carolina. About eleven we came into a large swamp, where we wandered about till near two. We then found another blaze, and pursued it till it divided into two; one of these we followed through an almost impassable thicket, a mile beyond which it ended. We made through the thicket again, and traced the other blaze till that ended too. It now grew toward sunset, so we sat down, faint and weary, having had no food all day, except a gingerbread cake, which I had taken in my pocket. A third of this we had divided among us at noon; another third we took now; the rest we reserved for the morning; but we had met with no water all the day. Thrusting a stick into the ground, and finding the end of it moist, two of our company fell a digging with their hands, and at about three feet depth found water. We thanked God, drank, and were refreshed. The night was sharp; however, there was no complaining among us; but after having commended ourselves to God, we lay down close together, and (I at least) slept till near six in the morning.

Sun. Dec. 4. God renewing our strength, we arose neither faint nor weary, and resolved to make one trial more to find out a path to Port-Royal. We steered due east, but finding neither path nor blaze, and the woods growing thicker and thicker, we judged it would be our best course to return, if we could, by the way we came. The day before, in the thickest part of the woods, I had

broke many young trees, I knew not why, as we walked along; these we found a great help in several places, where no path was to be seen; and between one and two God brought us safe to Benjamin Arieu's house, the old man we left the day before.

In the evening I read French prayers to a numerous family, a mile from Arieu's, one of whom undertook to guide us to Port-Royal. In the morning we set out. About sunset we asked our guide if he knew where he was? who frankly answered, No. However, we pushed on till about seven we came to a plantation, and the next evening (after many difficulties and delays) we landed on Port-Royal island.

Wed. 7. We walked to Beaufort, where Mr. Jones, (the Minister of Beaufort,) with whom I lodged during my short stay here, gave me a lively idea of the old English hospitality. On Thursday Mr. Delamotte came, with whom, on Friday the 9th, I took boat for Charles-Town. After a slow passage, by reason of contrary winds, and some conflict (our provisions falling short) with hunger as well as cold, we came thither early in the morning, on Tuesday the 13th. Here I expected trials of a different kind, and far more dangerous. For contempt and want are easy to be borne; but who can bear respect and abundance?

Wed. 14. Being desired to read public prayers, I was much refreshed with those glorious promises, contained both in the 72d Psalm, and in the first Lesson, the 40th chapter of Isaiah. "Yea, they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, and mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

In the afternoon, visiting a dying man, we found him still full of the freshest advices, and busy in settling the affairs of the Czarina, Prince Thamas, and the Ottoman Porte. How natural then is the thought,—

Quæ cura nitentis
Pascere equos, eadem sequitur tellure repostos?

For if a soul quivering on the verge of life has still leisure for these impertinences, one might almost believe the same dreams would continue even in the sleep of death!

Fri. 16. I parted from the last of those friends who came with me into America, Mr. Charles Delamotte,

from whom I had been but a few days separate since October 14, 1735.

Sun. 18. I was seized with a violent flux, which I felt came not before I wanted it; yet I had strength enough given to preach once more to this careless people; and a few believed our report.

Thur. 22. I took my leave of America, (though, if it please God, not for ever,) going on board the *Samuel*, Captain Percy, with a young gentleman who had been a few months in Carolina, one of my parishioners of Savannah, and a Frenchman, late of Purrysburg, who was escaped thence with the skin of his teeth.

Sat. 24. We sailed over Charles-Town bar, and about noon lost sight of land.

The next day the wind was fair, but high, as it was on Sunday 25, when the sea affected me more than it had done in the sixteen weeks of our passage to America. I was obliged to lie down the greatest part of the day, being easy only in that posture.

Mon. 26. I began instructing a negro lad in the principles of Christianity. The next day I resolved to break off living delicately, and return to my old simplicity of diet; and after I did so, neither my stomach nor my head much complained of the motion of the ship.

Wed. 28. Finding the unaccountable apprehensions of I know not what danger, (the wind being small, and the sea smooth,) which had been upon me several days, increase, I cried earnestly for help, and it pleased God, as in a moment, to restore peace to my soul.

Let me observe hereon, 1. That not one of these hours ought to pass out of my remembrance, till I attain another manner of spirit; a spirit equally willing to glorify God by life or by death. 2. That whoever is uneasy on any account, (bodily pain alone excepted,) carries in himself his own conviction, that he is so far an unbeliever. Is he uneasy at the apprehension of death? Then he believeth not, "That to die is to gain." At any of the events of life? Then he hath not a firm belief, That "all things work together for his good." And if he bring the matter more close, he will always find, beside the general want of faith, every particular uneasiness is evidently owing to the want of some particular christian temper.

Sun. Jan. 1, 1738. All in the ship (except the Captain

and steersman) were present both at the morning and evening service, and appeared as deeply attentive as even the poor people of Frederica did, while the word of God was new to their ears. And it may be one or two among these likewise, may "bring forth fruit with patience."

Mon. 2. Being sorrowful and very heavy, (though I could give no particular reason for it,) and utterly unwilling to speak close to any of my little flock, (about twenty persons,) I was in doubt, whether my neglect of them was not one cause of my own heaviness? In the evening, therefore, I begun instructing the cabin-boy, after which I was much easier.

I went several times the following days, with a design to speak to the sailors, but could not. I mean, I was quite averse from speaking: I could not see how to make an occasion; and it seemed quite absurd to speak without. Is not this what men commonly mean by, "I could not speak?" And is this a sufficient cause of silence, or no? Is it a prohibition from the Good Spirit? Or a temptation from nature, or the evil one? Friday 6, I ended the abridgment of Mr. de Renty's life. O that such a life should be related by such a historian! who, by inserting all, if not more than all the weak things that holy man ever said or did, by his commendation of almost every action or word which either deserved or needed it not; and by his injudicious manner of relating many others, which were indeed highly commendable; has cast the shade of superstition and folly over one of the brightest patterns of heavenly wisdom.

Sat. 7. I began to read and explain some passages of the Bible to the young negro. The next morning, another negro who was on board desired to be a hearer too. From them I went to the poor Frenchman, who, understanding no English, had none else in the ship with whom he could converse. And from this time I read and explained to him a chapter in the Testament every morning.

Sun. 8. In the fulness of my heart I wrote the following words:

"By the most infallible of proofs, inward feeling, I am convinced,

"1. Of unbelief, having no such faith in Christ, as will prevent my heart from being troubled; which it

could not be, if I believed in God, and rightly believed in Him.

"2. Of pride, throughout my life past, inasmuch as I thought I had, what I find I have not.

"3. Of gross irrecollection, inasmuch as in a storm I cry to God every moment; in a calm, not.

"4. Of levity and luxuriancy of spirit, recurring whenever the pressure is taken off, and appearing by my speaking words not tending to edify; but most, by my manner of speaking of my enemies."

"'Lord save, or I perish!' Save me,

"1. By such a faith as implies peace in life and in death.

"2. By such humility as may fill my heart, from this hour for ever, with a piercing uninterrupted sense, *Nihil est quod hactenus feci*;¹ having evidently built without a foundation.

"3. By such a recollection as may cry to thee every moment, especially when all is calm. Give me faith or I die: give a lowly spirit; otherwise *Mihi non sit suave vivere*.²

"4. By steadiness, seriousness, Σειμότης, sobriety of spirit, avoiding, as fire, every word that tendeth not to edifying; and never speaking of any who oppose me or sin against God, without all my own sins set in array before my face."

This morning, after explaining those words of St. Paul, "I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God," I exhorted my fellow-travellers with all my might, to comply with the Apostle's direction. But leaving them afterwards to themselves, the seriousness they showed at first soon vanished away.

On Mon. 9, and the following days, I reflected much on that vain desire, which had pursued me for so many years, of being in solitude, in order to be a Christian. I have now, thought I, solitude enough. But am I therefore the nearer being a Christian? Not if Jesus Christ be the model of Christianity. I doubt, indeed, I am much nearer that mystery of Satan, which some writers affect to call by that name; so near, that I had probably sunk wholly into it, had not the great mercy of God just now thrown me upon reading St. Cyprian's works. "O my

¹ I have done nothing hitherto.

² Let life be a burden to me.

soul, come not thou into their secret! Stand thou in the good old paths."

Fri. 13. We had a thorough storm, which obliged us to shut all close, the sea breaking over the ship continually. I was at first afraid; but cried to God, and was strengthened. Before ten I lay down, I bless God, without fear. About midnight we were awaked by a confused noise, of seas and wind and men's voices, the like to which I had never heard before. The sound of the sea breaking over, and against the sides of the ship, I could compare to nothing but large cannon, or American thunder. The rebounding, starting, quivering motion of the ship, much resembled what is said of earthquakes. The captain was upon deck in an instant. But his men could not hear what he said. It blew a proper hurricane; which beginning at south-west, then went west, north-west, north, and in a quarter of an hour round by the east to the south-west point again. At the same time the sea running (as they term it) mountain high, and that from many different points at once, the ship would not obey the helm; nor indeed could the steersman, through the violent rain, see the compass. So he was forced to let her run before the wind, and in half an hour the stress of the storm was over.

About noon the next day it ceased. But first I had resolved, God being my helper, not only to preach it to all, but to apply the word of God to every single soul in the ship; and if but one, yea if not one of them will hear, I know my labour is not in vain.

I no sooner executed this resolution, than my spirit revived; so that from this day I had no more of that fearfulness and heaviness, which before almost continually weighed me down. I am sensible one who thinks the being *in orco*, as they phrase it, an indispensable preparative for being a Christian, would say, I had better have continued in that state; and that this unseasonable relief was a curse, not a blessing. Nay, but who art thou, O man, who, in favour of a wretched hypothesis, thus blasphemest the good gift of God? Hath not he himself said, "This also is the gift of God, if a man have power to rejoice in his labour?" Yea, God setteth his own seal to his weak endeavours, while he thus "answereth him in the joy of his heart."

Tues. 24. We spoke with two ships, outward-bound,

from whom we had the welcome news of our wanting but 160 leagues of the land's-end. My mind was now full of thought, part of which I writ down as follows :—

"I went to America, to convert the Indians; but oh! who shall convert me! Who, what is he that will deliver me from this evil heart of unbelief? I have a fair summer religion; I can talk well; nay, and believe myself, while no danger is near: but let death look me in the face, and my spirit is troubled. Nor can I say "To die is gain!"

"I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore!"

"I think verily, if the Gospel be true, I am safe: for I not only have given, and do give all my goods to feed the poor: I not only give my body to be burned, drowned, or whatever God shall appoint for me; but I follow after charity, (though not as I ought, yet as I can,) if haply I may attain it. I now believe the Gospel is true. 'I show my faith by my works,' by staking my all upon it. I would do so again and again a thousand times, if the choice were still to make. Whoever sees me, sees I would be a Christian. Therefore 'are my ways not like other men's ways.' Therefore I have been, I am, I am content to be, 'a by-word, a proverb of reproach.' But in a storm I think, 'What if the Gospel be not true? Then thou art of all men most foolish. For what hast thou given thy goods, thy ease, thy friends, thy reputation, thy country, thy life? For what art thou wandering over the face of the earth? a dream, a cunningly devised fable?' O who will deliver me from this fear of death! What shall I do? Where shall I fly from it? Should I fight against it by thinking, or by not thinking of it? A wise man advised me some time since, 'Be still, and go on.' Perhaps this is best, to look upon it as my cross; when it comes, to let it humble me, and quicken all my good resolutions, especially that of praying without ceasing; and at other times to take no thought about it, but quietly to go on in the work of the Lord."

We went on with a small, fair wind, till Thursday in the afternoon, and then sounding, found a whitish sand at 75 fathom; but having had no observation for several days, the captain began to be uneasy, fearing we might either get unawares into the Bristol Channel, or strike in the night on the rocks of Scilly.

Sat. 28, was another cloudy day; but about ten in

the morning (the wind continuing southerly) the clouds began to fly just contrary to the wind, and to the surprise of us all, sunk down under the sun, so that at noon we had an exact observation; and by this we found we were as well as we could desire, about eleven leagues south of Scilly.

Sun. 29. We saw English land once more, which about noon appeared to be the Lizard Point. We ran by it with a fair wind, and at noon the next day made the west end of the Isle of Wight.

Here the wind turned against us, and in the evening blew fresh, so that we expected (the tide being likewise strong against us) to be driven some leagues backward in the night; but in the morning, to our great surprise, we saw Beachy Head just before us, and found we had gone forwards near forty miles.

Toward evening was a calm; but in the night a strong north wind brought us safe into the Downs. The day before, Mr. Whitefield had sailed out, neither of us then knowing any thing of the other. At four in the morning we took boat, and in half an hour landed at Deal: it being Wednesday, February 1, the anniversary festival in Georgia for Mr. Oglethorpe's landing there.

It is now two years and almost four months since I left my native country, in order to teach the Georgian Indians the nature of Christianity; but what have I learned myself in the mean time? Why, (what I the least of all suspected,) that I who went to America to convert others, was never myself converted to God.¹ I am not mad, though I thus speak; but I speak the words of truth and soberness; if haply some of those who still dream may awake, and see, that as I am so are they.—

Are they read in philosophy? So was I. In ancient or modern tongues? So was I also. Are they versed in the science of divinity? I too have studied it many years. Can they talk fluently upon spiritual things? The very same could I do. Are they plenteous in alms? Behold, I gave all my goods to feed the poor. Do they give of their labour as well as of their substance? I have laboured more abundantly than they all. Are they willing to suffer for their brethren? I have thrown up my friends, reputation, ease, country; I have put my life in my hand, wandering into strange lands; I have given my

¹ I am not sure of this.

body to be devoured by the deep, parched up with heat, consumed by toil and weariness, or whatsoever God should please to bring upon me. But does all this (be it more or less, it matters not) make me acceptable to God? Does all I ever did or can know, say, give, do, or suffer, justify me in his sight? Yea, or the constant use of all the means of grace? (which nevertheless is meet, right, and our bounden duty.) Or, that "I know nothing of myself;" that I am as touching outward, moral righteousness blameless? Or, (to come closer yet,) the having a rational conviction of all the truths of Christianity? Does all this give me a claim to the holy, heavenly, divine character of a Christian? By no means. If the oracles of God are true, if we are still to abide by the law and the testimony; all these things, though when ennobled by faith in Christ,¹ they are holy, and just and good, yet without it are dung and dross, meet only to be purged away by the fire that never shall be quenched.

This then have I learned in the ends of the earth: That I am fallen short of the glory of God; that my whole heart is altogether corrupt and abominable, and consequently my whole life; (seeing it cannot be, that an evil tree should bring forth good fruit;) that alienated as I am from the life of God, I am a child of wrath,² an heir of hell; that my own works, my own sufferings, my own righteousness, are so far from reconciling me to an offended God, so far from making any atonement for the least of those sins, which are more in number than the hairs of my head, that the most specious of them need an atonement themselves, or they cannot abide his righteous judgment; that having the sentence of death in my heart, and having nothing in or of myself to plead, I have no hope, but that of being justified freely, "through the redemption that is in Jesus:" I have no hope but that if I seek I shall find Christ, and "be found in him, not having my own righteousness, but that which is through the faith of Christ: the righteousness which is of God by faith."

If it be said, that I have faith; (for many such things have I heard, from many miserable comforters;) I

¹ I had even then the faith of a *servant*, though not that of a *son*.

² I believe not.

answer, so have the devils,—a sort of faith; but still they are strangers to the covenant of promise. So the Apostles had even at Cana in Galilee, when Jesus first manifested forth his glory; even then they in a sort believed on him; but they had not then “the faith that overcometh the world.” The faith I want is,¹ “A sure trust and confidence in God, that through the merits of Christ my sins are forgiven, and I reconciled to the favour of God.” I want that faith which St. Paul recommends to all the world, especially in his epistle to the Romans; that faith which enables every one that hath it to cry out, “I live not; but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” I want that faith which none can have without knowing that he hath it: (though many imagine they have it, who have it not :) for whosoever hath it “is freed from sin; the whole body of sin is destroyed” in him; he is freed from fear; “having peace with God through Christ, and rejoicing in hope of the glory of God.” And he is freed from doubt; “having the love of God shed abroad in his heart, through the Holy Ghost which is given unto him; which Spirit itself beareth witness with his spirit, that he is a child of God.”

¹ The faith of a *son*.

AN EXTRACT
OF THE
REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY'S JOURNAL,
FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1737-8, TO HIS RETURN
FROM GERMANY.

For this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting.—1 Tim. i. 16.

II.

PREFACE.

1. THAT men revile me and say all manner of evil against me, that I am become as it were a monster unto many, that the zealous of almost every denomination cry out, "Away with such a fellow from the earth;" this gives me, with regard to myself, no degree of uneasiness; for I know the Scripture must be fulfilled, "If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household?" But it does give me a concern, with regard to those who, by this artifice of the Devil, are prevented from hearing that word which is able to save their souls.

2. For the sake of these, and indeed of all who desire to hear the truth of those things which have been so variously related, I have been induced to publish this farther account; and I doubt not but it will even hence appear, to all candid and impartial judges, that I have hitherto lived in all good conscience toward God.

3. I shall be easily excused by those who either love or seek the Lord Jesus in sincerity, for speaking so largely of the Moravian Church; a city which ought to be set

upon an hill: their light hath been too long hid under a bushel: it is high time it should at length break forth, and "so shine before men, that others also may glorify their Father which is in heaven."

4. If any should ask, "But do you think even this Church is perfect, without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing?" I answer plainly, "No; though I trust it will be, when patience has had its perfect work." But neither do I think it right to entertain the world with the spots of God's children.

5. It has been further asked, "Whether I imagine God is to be found only among them?" I reply, "By no means. I know there is a God in England, and we need not go to seek him in strange lands." I know that in our own, he is very nigh unto all that call upon him; and therefore I think those unwise (to say no more) who run to inquire after him in Holland or Germany.

6. When I went, the case was widely different. God had not then "made bare his arm" before us as he hath now done; in a manner (I will be bold to say) which had not been known either in Holland or Germany at that time, when He, who ordered all things wisely, according to the counsels of his own will, was pleased by me to open the intercourse between the English and the Moravian Church.

7. The particular reason which obliged me to relate so much of the conversation I had with those holy men, is this: In September, 1738, when I returned from Germany, I exhorted all I could to follow after that great salvation, which is through faith in the blood of Christ; waiting for it, "in all the ordinances of God," and in "doing good, as they had opportunity, to all men." And many found the beginning of that salvation, being justified freely, having peace with God through Christ, rejoicing in hope of the glory of God, and having his love shed abroad in their hearts.

8. But about September, 1739, while my brother and I were absent, certain men crept in among them unawares, greatly troubling and subverting their souls; telling them, "They were in a delusion; that they had deceived themselves, and had no true faith at all. For (said they) none has any justifying faith, who has ever any doubt or fear, (which you know you have,) or who has not a clean heart, which you know you have not; nor will you ever

have it, till you leave off using the means of grace, (so called,) till you leave off running to Church and Sacrament, and praying, and singing, and reading either the Bible, or any other book; for you cannot use these things without trusting in them. Therefore, till you leave them off, you can never have true faith; you can never till then trust in the blood of Christ."

9. And this doctrine, from the beginning to this day, has been taught as the doctrine of the Moravian Church. I think, therefore, it is my bounden duty to clear the Moravians from this aspersion; and the more, because I am perhaps the only person now in England that both can and will do it. And I believe it is the peculiar providence of God that I can; that two years since the most eminent members of that Church, should so fully declare both their experience and judgment, touching the very points now in question.

10. The sum of what has been asserted as from them, is this:—

"1. That a man cannot have any degree of justifying faith, till he is wholly freed from all doubt and fear, and till he has (in the full proper sense) a new, a clean heart.

"2. That a man may not use the ordinances of God, the Lord's Supper in particular, before he has such a faith as excludes all doubt and fear, and implies a new, a clean heart."

In flat opposition to this, I assert,

"1. That a man may have a degree of justifying faith, before he is wholly freed from all doubt and fear, and before he has, in the full proper sense, a new, a clean heart.

"2. That a man may use the ordinances of God, the Lord's Supper in particular, before he has such a faith as excludes all doubt and fear, and implies a new, a clean heart."

I farther assert, "This I learned (not only from the English, but also) from the Moravian Church."

And I hereby openly and earnestly call upon that Church (and upon Count Zinzendorf in particular, who I trust is not ashamed or afraid to avow any part of the Gospel of Christ) to correct me, and explain themselves, if I have misunderstood or misrepresented them.

London, Sept. 29, 1740.

JOHN WESLEY.

JOURNAL

FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1733, TO SEPTEMBER 16, 1738.

WEDNESDAY, February 1. After reading prayers and explaining a portion of Scripture to a large company at the inn, I left Deal, and came in the evening to Feversham.

I here read prayers, and explained the second Lesson, to a few of those who were called Christians, but indeed were more savage in their behaviour than the wildest Indians I have yet met with.

Fri. 3. I came to Mr. Delamotte's at Blendon, where I expected a cold reception. But God had prepared the way before me; and I no sooner mentioned my name, than I was welcomed in such a manner as constrained me to say, "Surely God is in this place, and I knew it not! Blessed be ye of the Lord! Ye have shown more kindness in the latter end than in the beginning."

In the evening I came once more to London, whence I had been absent two years and near four months.

Many reasons I have to bless God, though the design I went upon did not take effect, for my having been carried into that strange land, contrary to all my preceding resolutions. Hereby I trust he hath in some measure humbled me and proved me, and shown me what was in my heart. Hereby I have been taught to beware of men. Hereby I am come to know assuredly, that if in all our ways we acknowledge God, he will, where reason fails, direct our path, by lot or by the other means which he knoweth. Hereby I am delivered from the fear of the sea, which I had both dreaded and abhorred from my youth.

Hereby God has given me to know many of his servants, particularly those of the Church of Hernhuth. Hereby my passage is opened to the writings of holy men in the German, Spanish and Italian tongues. I hope too, some good may come to others hereby. All in Georgia have heard the word of God. Some have believed, and began to run well. A few steps have been

82 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

taken towards publishing the glad tidings both to the African and American heathens. Many children have learned how they ought to serve God, and to be useful to their neighbour. And those whom it most concerns have an opportunity of knowing the true state of their infant colony, and laying a firmer foundation of peace and happiness to many generations.

Sat. 4. I told my friends some of the reasons which a little hastened my return to England. They all agreed it would be proper to relate them to the Trustees of Georgia.

Accordingly, the next morning I waited on Mr. Oglethorpe, but had not time to speak on that head. In the afternoon I was desired to preach at St. John the Evangelist's. I did so on those strong words, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." I was afterwards informed, many of the best in the parish were so offended, that I was not to preach there any more.

Mon. 6. I visited many of my old friends, as well as most of my relations. I find the time is not yet come when I am to be hated of all men. O may I be prepared for that day!

Tues. 7. (A day much to be remembered.) At the house of Mr. Weinantz, a Dutch merchant, I met Peter Böhler, Scholius Richter and Wensel Neiser, just then landed from Germany. Finding they had no acquaintance in England, I offered to procure them a lodging; and did so, near Mr. Hutton's, where I then was. And from this time I did not willingly lose any opportunity of conversing with them, while I stayed in London.

Wed. 8. I went to Mr. Oglethorpe again, but had no opportunity of speaking as I designed. Afterwards I waited on the Board of Trustees, and gave them a short but plain account of the state of the colony; an account, I fear, not a little differing from those which they had frequently received before; and for which I have reason to believe some of them have not forgiven me to this day.

Sun. 12. I preached at St. Andrew's Holborn, on, "Though I give all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." O hard sayings! Who can hear them? Here too (it seems) I am to preach no more.

Wed. 15. I waited on the Trustees again, and gave them in writing the substance of what I had said at the last board. Whatsoever farther questions they asked concerning the state of the Province, I likewise answered to the best of my knowledge.

Fri. 17. I set out for Oxford with Peter Böhler, where we were kindly received by Mr. Sarney, the only one now remaining here, of many who, at our embarking for America, were used to take sweet counsel together, and rejoice in bearing the reproach of Christ.

Sat. 18. We went to Stanton-Harcourt, to Mr. Gambold, and found my old friend recovered from his mystic delusion, and convinced that St. Paul was a better writer than either Tauler or Jacob Behmen.—The next day I preached once more at the castle, (in Oxford,) to a numerous and serious congregation.

All this time I conversed much with Peter Böhler, but I understood him not; and least of all when he said, "*Mi frater, mi frater, excoquenda est ista tua philosophia.*" (My brother, my brother, that philosophy of yours must be purged away.)

Mon. 20. I returned to London. On Tuesday I preached at Great St. Helen's, on, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Wed. 22. I was with the Trustees again, to whom I then gave a short account (and afterwards delivered it to them in writing) of the reasons why I left Georgia.

Sun. 26. I preached at six at St. Lawrence's; at ten, in St. Katherine's Cree-Church; and in the afternoon, at St. John's, Wapping. I believe it pleased God to bless the first sermon most, because it gave most offence; being indeed an open defiance of that mystery of iniquity which the world calls *prudence*, grounded on those words of St. Paul to the Galatians: "As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ."

Mon. 27. I took coach for Salisbury, and had several opportunities of conversing seriously with my fellow-travellers. But endeavouring to mend the wisdom of God by the worldly wisdom of prefacing serious with light conversation, and afterwards following that advice of the mystics, leave them to themselves, all I had said was

84 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

written on the sand. "Lord, lay not this sin to my charge!"

Tues. 28. I saw my mother once more. The next day I prepared for my journey to my brother at Tiverton. But on Thursday morning, March 2d, a message that my brother Charles was dying at Oxford, obliged me to set out for that place immediately. Calling at an odd house in the afternoon, I found several persons there, who seemed well-wishers to religion, to whom I spake plainly; as I did in the evening, both to the servants and strangers at my inn.

With regard to my own behaviour, I now renewed and wrote down my former resolutions.

1. To use absolute openness and unreserve with all I should converse with.

2. To labour after continual seriousness, not willingly indulging myself in any the least levity of behaviour, or in laughter, no not for a moment.

3. To speak no word which does not tend to the glory of God; in particular, not to talk of worldly things. Others may, nay, must. But what is that to thee? And

4. To take no pleasure which does not tend to the glory of God; thanking God every moment for all I do take, and therefore rejecting every sort and degree of it, which I feel I cannot so thank him *in* and *for*.

Sat. 4. I found my brother at Oxford recovering from his pleurisy; and with him Peter Böhler: by whom (in the hand of the great God) I was, on Sunday the 5th, clearly convinced of unbelief; of the want of that faith whereby alone we are saved.¹

Immediately it struck into my mind, "Leave off preaching. How can you preach to others who have not faith yourself?" I asked Böhler, whether he thought I should leave it off, or not? He answered, "By no means." I asked, "But what can I preach?" He said, "Preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith."

Accordingly, Monday 6, I began preaching this new doctrine, though my soul started back from the work. The first person to whom I offered salvation by faith alone, was a prisoner under sentence of death. His name was Clifford. Peter Böhler had many times desired me to speak to him before. But I could not prevail on myself

¹ With the full Christian salvation.

so to do ; being still (as I had been many years) a zealous assertor of the impossibility of a death-bed repentance.

Fri. 10. Peter Böhler returned to London. Tuesday, 15th, I set out for Manchester, with Mr. Kinchin, Fellow of Corpus Christi, and Mr. Fox, late a prisoner in the city prison. Between five and six we called at Chapel on the Heath, where lived a poor man, sometime prisoner in the castle of Oxford. He was not at home ; but his wife came to us, to whom Mr. Kinchin spoke a few words, which so melted her heart, that she burst out into tears, and we went on rejoicing and praising God.

About eight, it being rainy and very dark, we lost our way ; but before nine came to Shipston ; having rode over, I know not how, a narrow foot-bridge, which lay across a deep ditch near the town. After supper I read prayers to the people of the inn, and explained the second Lesson ; I hope not in vain.

The next day we dined at Birmingham, and soon after we left it, were reproved for our negligence there, (in letting those who attended us go, without either exhortation or instruction,) by a severe shower of hail. At Hedgeford, about five, we endeavoured to be more faithful ; and all who heard seemed serious and affected.

In the evening we came to Stafford. The mistress of the house joined with us in family prayer. The next morning, one of the servants appeared deeply affected, as did the ostler before we went. Soon after breakfast, stepping into the stable, I spake a few words to those who were there. A stranger who heard me, said, " Sir, I wish I was to travel with you ; " and when I went into the house followed me, and began abruptly, " Sir, I believe you are a good man, and I come to tell you a little of my life." The tears stood in his eyes all the time he spoke ; and we hoped not a word which was said to him was lost.

At Newcastle, whither we came about ten, some to whom we spoke at our inn were very attentive ; but a gay young woman waited on us, quite unconcerned ; however, we spoke on. When we went away, she fixed her eyes, and neither moved nor said one word, but appeared as much astonished as if she had seen one risen from the dead.

Coming to Holms-Chapel about three, we were surprised at being shown into a room where a cloth and

plates were laid. Soon after, two men came in to dinner. Mr. Kinchin told them, "If they pleased, that gentleman would ask a blessing for them." They stared, and as it were consented; but sat still while I did it, one of them with his hat on. We began to speak on turning to God, and went on, though they appeared utterly regardless. After a while their countenances changed, and one of them stole off his hat, and laying it down behind him, said, "All we said was true; but he had been a grievous sinner, and not considered it as he ought: but he was resolved, with God's help, now to turn to Him in earnest." We exhorted him and his companion, who now likewise drank in every word, to cry mightily to God, that he would send them help from his holy place.

Being faint in the evening, I called at Altringham, and there light upon a Quaker, well skilled in, and therefore (as I soon found) sufficiently fond of controversy. After an hour spent therein, (perhaps not in vain,) I advised him "To dispute as little as possible; but rather follow after holiness, and walk humbly with his God."

Late at night we reached Manchester. Friday the 17th, we spent entirely with Mr. Clayton, by whom, and the rest of our friends here, we were much refreshed and strengthened. Mr. Hoole, the rector of St. Ann's Church, being taken ill the next day, on Sunday 19th, Mr. Kinchin and I officiated at Salford Chapel in the morning; by which means Mr. Clayton was at liberty to perform the service of St. Ann's; and in the afternoon I preached there, on those words of St. Paul, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."

Early in the morning we left Manchester, taking with us Mr. Kinchin's brother, for whom we came, to be entered at Oxford. We were fully determined to lose no opportunity of awakening, instructing, or exhorting, any whom we might meet with in our journey. At Knutsford, where we first stopped, all we spake to thankfully received the word of exhortation. But at Talk-on-the-Hill, where we dined, she with whom we were was so much of a gentlewoman, that for near an hour our labour seemed to be in vain. However, we spoke on. Upon a sudden, she looked as one just awaked out of a sleep: every word sunk into her heart: nor have I seen so entire a change, both in the eyes, face and manner of speaking, of any one in so short a time.

About five, Mr. Kinchin riding by a man and woman double-horsed, the man said, "Sir, you ought to thank God it is a fair day; for if it rained, you would be sadly dirty with your little horse." Mr. Kinchin answered, "True: and we ought to thank God for our life and health, and food and raiment, and all things." He then rode on, Mr. Fox following, the man said, "Sir, my mistress would be glad to have some more talk with that gentleman." We stayed, and when they came up, began to search one another's hearts. They came to us again in the evening, at our inn at Stone; where I explained both to them and many of their acquaintance who were come together, that great truth, "Godliness hath the promise both of this life and of that which is to come."

Tues. 21. Between nine and ten we came to Hedgeford. Just then, one was giving an account of a young woman who had dropped down dead there the day before. This gave us a fair occasion to exhort all that were present, "so to number their own days that they might apply their hearts unto wisdom."

In the afternoon one overtook us, whom we soon found more inclined to speak than to hear. However we spoke, and spared not. In the evening we overtook a young man, a Quaker, who afterwards came to us to our inn at Henley, whither he sent for the rest of his family, to join with us in prayer: to which I added, as usual, the exposition of the second Lesson. Our other companion went with us a mile or two in the morning; and then not only spoke less than the day before, but took in good part a serious caution against talkativeness and vanity.

An hour after we were overtook by an elderly gentleman, who said, "He was going to enter his son at Oxford." We asked, "At what college?" He said, "He did not know: having no acquaintance there on whose recommendation he could depend." After some conversation, he expressed a deep sense of the good providence of God, and told us, "He knew God had cast us in his way, in answer to his prayer." In the evening we reached Oxford, rejoicing in our having received so many fresh instances of that great truth, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Thur 23. I met Peter Böhler again, who now amazed me more and more by the account he gave of the fruits of living faith, the holiness and happiness which he

affirmed to attend it. The next morning I began the Greek Testament again, resolving to abide by "the law and the testimony;" and being confident that God would hereby show me whether this doctrine was of God?

Sun. 26. I preached at Whitam, on the new creature, and went in the evening to a Society in Oxford, where, (as my manner then was at all Societies,) after using a collect or two and the Lord's Prayer, I expounded a chapter in the New Testament, and concluded with three or four more collects and a psalm.

Mon. 27. Mr. Kinchin went with me to the Castle, where, after reading prayers and preaching on, "It is appointed for men once to die," we prayed with the condemned man, first in several forms of prayer, and then in such words as were given us in that hour. He kneeled down in much heaviness and confusion, having "no rest in his bones, by reason of his sins." After a space he rose up, and eagerly said, "I am now ready to die. I know Christ has taken away my sins, and there is no more condemnation for me." The same composed cheerfulness he showed when he was carried to execution: and in his last moments he was the same, enjoying a perfect peace, in confidence that he was "accepted in the beloved."

Sat. April 1. Being at Mr. Fox's Society, my heart was so full that I could not confine myself to the forms of prayer which we were accustomed to use there. Neither do I purpose to be confined to them any more; but to pray indifferently, with a form or without, as I may find suitable to particular occasions.

Sun. 2. Being Easter Day, I preached in our College chapel on, "The hour cometh, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." I preached in the afternoon, first at the Castle, and then at Carfax, on the same words. I see the promise; but it is afar off.

Believing it would be better for me to wait for the accomplishment of it in silence and retirement, on Monday, 3d, I complied with Mr. Kinchin's desire, and went to him at Dummer, in Hampshire. But I was not suffered to stay here long; being earnestly pressed to come up to London, if it were only for a few days. Thither therefore I returned on Tuesday the 18th.

Sat. 21. I met Peter Böhler once more. I had now no

objection to what he said of the nature of faith, viz. that it is (to use the words of our Church) "A sure trust and confidence which a man hath in God, that, through the merits of Christ, his sins are forgiven, and he reconciled to the favour of God." Neither could I deny either the happiness or holiness which he described, as fruits of this living faith. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;" and, "He that believeth hath the witness in himself," fully convinced me of the former; as "Whatsoever is born of God, doth not commit sin," and "Whosoever believeth, is born of God," did of the latter. But I could not comprehend what he spoke of an instantaneous work. I could not understand how this faith should be given in a moment: how a man could at once be thus turned from darkness to light, from sin and misery to righteousness and joy in the Holy Ghost. I searched the Scriptures again, touching this very thing, particularly the Acts of the Apostles: But, to my utter astonishment, found scarce any instances there of other than instantaneous conversions; scarce any so slow as that of St. Paul, who was three days in the pangs of the new birth. I had but one retreat left, viz. "Thus: I grant, God wrought in the first ages of Christianity; but the times are changed. What reason have I to believe, he works in the same manner now?"

But on Sunday 22, I was beat out of this retreat too, by the concurring evidence of several living witnesses, who testified, God had thus wrought in themselves; giving them, in a moment, such a faith in the blood of his Son, as translated them out of darkness into light, out of sin and fear into holiness and happiness. Here ended my disputing. I could now only cry out, "Lord, help thou my unbelief!"

I asked P. Böhler again, "Whether I ought not to refrain from teaching others?" He said, "No; do not hide in the earth the talent God hath given you." Accordingly, on Tuesday 25th, I spoke clearly and fully at Blendon to Mr. Delamotte's family, of the nature and fruits of faith. Mr. Broughton and my brother were there. Mr. Broughton's great objection was, he could never think that I had not faith, who had done and suffered such things. My brother was very angry, and told me, "I did not know what mischief I had done by

talking thus." And indeed it did please God then to kindle a fire, which I trust shall never be extinguished.

On Wednesday 21st, the day fixed for my return to Oxford, I once more waited on the Trustees for Georgia; but being straitened for time, was obliged to leave the papers for them, which I had designed to give into their own hands. One of these was the instrument whereby they had appointed me Minister of Savannah; which, having no more place in those parts, I thought it not right to keep any longer.

P. Böhler walked with me a few miles, and exhorted me not to stop short of the grace of God. At Gerrard's Cross, I plainly declared to those whom God gave into my hands, "The faith as it is in Jesus:" as I did next day to a young man I overtook on the road, and in the evening to our friends at Oxford. A strange doctrine, which some, who did not care to contradict, yet knew not what to make of; but one or two, who were thoroughly bruised by sin, willingly heard, and received it gladly.

In the day or two following, I was much confirmed in the "truth that is after godliness," by hearing the experiences of Mr. Hutchins, (of Pembroke College,) and Mrs. Fox: two living witnesses, that God can (at least, if he does not always) give that faith whereof cometh salvation in a moment, as lightning falling from heaven.

Mon. May 1. The return of my brother's illness obliged me again to hasten to London. In the evening I found him at James Hutton's, better as to his health than I expected; but strongly averse from what he called The New Faith.

This evening our little Society began, which afterwards met in Fetter-lane. Our fundamental rules were as follow:—

In obedience to the command of God, by St. James, and by the advice of Peter Böhler, it is agreed by us,

1. That we will meet together once a week to "confess our faults one to another, and pray one for another, that we may be healed."

2. That the persons so meeting be divided into several bands, or little companies, none of them consisting of fewer than five or more than ten persons.

3. That every one in order speak as freely, plainly,

and concisely as he can, the real state of his heart, with his several temptations and deliverances, since the last time of meeting.

4. That all the bands have a conference at eight every Wednesday evening, begun and ended with singing and prayer.

5. That any who desire to be admitted into this Society be asked, What are your reasons for desiring this? Will you be entirely open, using no kind of reserve? Have you any objection to any of our orders? (which may then be read.)

6. That when any new member is proposed, every one present speak clearly and freely whatever objection he has to him.

7. That those against whom no reasonable objection appears, be, in order for their trial, formed into one or more distinct bands, and some person agreed on to assist them.

8. That after two months' trial, if no objection then appear, they may be admitted into the Society.

9. That every fourth Saturday be observed as a day of general intercession.

10. That on the Sunday seven-night following be a general love-feast, from seven till ten in the evening.

11. That no particular member be allowed to act in any thing, contrary to any order of the Society: and that if any persons, after being thrice admonished, do not conform thereto, they be not any longer esteemed as members.

Wed. 3. My brother had a long and particular conversation with Peter Böhler. And it now pleased God to open his eyes; so that he also saw clearly, what was the nature of that one true living faith, whereby alone "through grace we are saved."

Thur 4. Peter Böhler left London, in order to embark for Carolina. O what a work hath God begun, since his coming into England! Such an one as shall never come to an end, till heaven and earth pass away.

Fri. and Sat. I was at Blendon. They now believed our report. O may the arm of the Lord be speedily revealed unto them!

Sun 7. I preached at St. Lawrence's in the morning; and afterwards at St. Katherine's Cree-Church. I was enabled to speak strong words at both; and was therefore

the less surprised at being informed, I was not to preach any more in either of those churches.

Tues. 9. I preached at Great St. Helen's, to a very numerous congregation, on "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" My heart was now so enlarged, to declare the love of God to all that were oppressed by the Devil, that I did not wonder in the least, when I was afterwards told, "Sir, you must preach here no more."

Wed. 10. Mr. Stonehouse, Vicar of Islington, was convinced of "the truth as it is in Jesus." From this time till Saturday 13th, I was sorrowful and very heavy; being neither able to read, nor meditate, nor sing, nor pray, nor do any thing. Yet I was a little refreshed by Peter Böhler's letter, which I insert in his own words:

"Charissime et suavissime Frater,

"Intentissimo amore te diligo, multum tui recordans in itinere meo, optando et precando ut quamprimum viscera misericordiæ crucifixi Jesu Christi, tui gratiâ jam ante 6000 annos commota, mentituæ appareant: Ut gustare et tunc videre possis, quam vehementer te Filius Dei amaverit et hucusque amet, et ut sic confidere possis in eo omni tempore, vitamque ejus in te et in carne tuâ sentire. Cave tibi a peccato incredulitatis, et si nondum vicisti illud, fac ut proximo die illud vincas, per sanguinem Jesu Christi. Ne differ, quæso, credere tuum in Jesum Christum; sed potius promissionum ejus quæ pertinent ad miserandos peccatores, coram, facie ejus benignâ sic mentionem fac, ut non aliter possit quam præstare tibi, quod multis aliis præstitit. O quam multus, quam magnus, quam ineffabilis, quam inexhaustus, est illius amor! Ille certe jam jam paratus est ad auxilium, et nihil potest illum offendere nisi incredulitas nostra. Crede igitur. Fratrem tuum Carolum et Hall, nomine meo saluta multum; et admonete vos invicem ad credendum, et tunc ad ambulandum coram facie Domini ἀκριβῶς et ad pugnandum contra Diabolum et mundum νομιμῶς, et ad crucifigendum et conculcandum peccatum omne sub pedibus nostris, quantum nobis datum est per gratiam secundi Adami, cujus vita excedit mortem prioris Adami, et cujus gratia antecellit Corruptionem et Damnationem prioris Adami.

"Dominus tibi benedicat. Permane in fide, amore, doctrina, communione sanctorum, et breviter, in omni quod habemus in Novo Fœdere. Ego sum et maneo,

"Tuus indignus Frater,

"In Agris Southamptonianis, "Petrus Böhler."

"Die 8vo Maii, 1738."

"I love you greatly, and think much of you in my journey, wishing and praying that the tender mercies of Jesus Christ the Crucified, whose bowels were moved towards you more than six thousand years ago, may be manifested to your soul; that you may taste and then see, how exceedingly the Son of God has loved you, and loves you still; and that so you may continually trust in him, and feel his life in yourself. Beware of the sin of unbelief; and if you have not conquered it yet, see that you conquer it this very day, through the blood of Jesus Christ. Delay not, I beseech you, to believe in *your* Jesus Christ; but so put him in mind of his promises to poor sinners, that he may not be able to refrain from doing for you, what he hath done for so many others. O how great, how inexpressible, how unexhausted is his love! Surely he is now ready to help; and nothing can offend him but our unbelief.——

"The Lord bless you! Abide in faith, love, teaching, the communion of saints; and, briefly, in all which we have in the New Testament. "I am,

"Your unworthy brother,

"Peter Böhler."

Sun. 14. I preached in the morning at St. Ann's, Aldersgate; and in the afternoon at the Savoy Chapel, free salvation by faith in the blood of Christ. I was quickly apprised, that at St. Ann's, likewise, I am to preach no more.

So true did I find the words of a friend, wrote to my brother about this time.

"I have seen, upon this occasion, more than ever I could have imagined, how intolerable the doctrine of faith is to the mind of man; and how peculiarly intolerable to religious men. One may say the most unchristian things, even down to Deism; the most enthusiastic things, so they proceed but upon mental raptures, lights and unions; the most severe things, even the whole rigour of ascetic

mortification; and all this will be forgiven. But if you speak of faith in such a manner as makes Christ a Saviour to the utmost, a most universal help and refuge; in such a manner as takes away glorying, but adds happiness to wretched man; as discovers a greater pollution in the best of us, than we could before acknowledge, but brings a greater deliverance from it than we could before expect; if any one offers to talk at this rate, he shall be heard with the same abhorrence as if he was going to rob mankind of their salvation, their Mediator, or their hopes of forgiveness. I am persuaded that a Montanist, or a Novatian, who from the height of his purity should look down with contempt upon poor sinners, and exclude them from all mercy, would not be thought such an overthrower of the Gospel, as he who should learn from the Author of it, to be a friend of publicans and sinners, and to sit down upon the level with them as soon as they begin to repent."

"But this is not to be wondered at. For all religious people have such a quantity of righteousness, acquired by much painful exercise, and formed at last into current habits; which is their wealth, both for this world and the next. Now all other schemes of religion are either so complaisant, as to tell them they are very rich, and have enough to triumph in; or else, only a little rough, but friendly in the main, by telling them, their riches are not yet sufficient, but by such arts of self-denial and mental refinement, they may enlarge the stock. But the doctrine of faith is a downright robber. It takes away all this wealth, and only tells us it is deposited for us with some body else, upon whose bounty we must live like mere beggars. Indeed they that are truly beggars, vile and filthy sinners, till very lately, may stoop to live in this dependent condition: it suits them well enough. But they who have long distinguished themselves from the herd of vicious wretches, or have even gone beyond moral men; for them to be told that they are either not so well, or but the same needy, impotent, insignificant vessels of mercy, with the others; this is more shocking to reason than transubstantiation. For reason had rather resign its pretensions to judge what is bread or flesh, than have this honour wrested from it to be the architect of virtue and righteousness. But where am I running? My design was only to give you warning, that wherever

you go, 'this foolishness of preaching' will alienate hearts from you, and open mouths against you."

Fri. 19. My brother had a second return of his pleurisy. A few of us spent Saturday night in prayer. The next day, being Whitsunday, after hearing Dr. Heylyn preach a truly Christian sermon, (on "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost:" "and so," said he, "may you all be, if it is not your own fault,") and assisting him at the Holy Communion, (his curate being taken ill in the church,) I received the surprising news, that my brother had found rest in his soul. His bodily strength returned also from that hour, "Who is so great a God as our God?"

I preached at St. John's, Wapping, at three, and at St. Bennett's, Paul's Wharf, in the evening. At these churches, likewise, I am to preach no more. At St. Antholin's I preached on the Thursday following.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, I had continual sorrow and heaviness in my heart; something of which I described, in the broken manner I was able, in the following letter to a friend:—

"O why is it, that so great, so wise, so holy a God will use such an instrument as me! Lord, 'let the dead bury their dead!' But wilt thou send the dead to raise the dead? Yea, thou sendest whom thou wilt send, and showest mercy by whom thou wilt show mercy! Amen! Be it then according to thy will! If thou speak the word, Judas shall cast out devils.

"I feel what you say, (though not enough,) for I am under the same condemnation. I see that the whole law of God is holy, just, and good. I know every thought, every temper of my soul, ought to bear God's image and superscription. But how am I fallen from the glory of God! I feel that 'I am sold under sin.' I know that I, too, deserve nothing but wrath, being full of all abominations; and having no good thing in me, to atone for them, or to remove the wrath of God. All my works, my righteousness, my prayers, need an atonement for themselves. So that my mouth is stopped. I have nothing to plead. God is holy; I am unholy. God is a consuming fire; I am altogether a sinner, meet to be consumed.

"Yet I hear a voice (and is it not the voice of God?)

saying, 'Believe, and thou shalt be saved. He that believeth is passed from death unto life. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

"O let no one deceive us by vain words, as if we had already attained this faith!¹ By its fruits we shall know. Do we already feel 'peace with God,' and 'joy in the Holy Ghost?' Does 'his Spirit bear witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God?' Alas, with mine he does not. Nor, I fear, with yours. O, thou Saviour of men, save us from trusting in any thing but thee! Draw us after thee! Let us be emptied of ourselves, and then fill us with all peace and joy in believing, and let nothing separate us from thy love, in time or in eternity!"

What occurred on Wednesday the 24th, I think best to relate at large, after premising what may make it the better understood. Let him that cannot receive it, ask of the Father of Lights, that he would give more light to him and me.

1. I believe, till I was about ten years old, I had not sinned away that "washing of the Holy Ghost" which was given me in baptism, having been strictly educated and carefully taught, that I could only be saved "by universal obedience, by keeping all the commandments of God;" in the meaning of which I was diligently instructed. And those instructions, so far as they respected outward duties and sins, I gladly received, and often thought of. But all that was said to me of inward obedience or holiness I neither understood nor remembered. So that I was, indeed, as ignorant of the true meaning of the Law, as I was of the Gospel of Christ.

2. The next six or seven years were spent at school; where, outward restraints being removed, I was much more negligent than before, even of outward duties, and almost continually guilty of outward sins, which I knew to be such, though they were not scandalous in the eye of the world. However, I still read the Scriptures, and said my prayers, morning and evening. And what I now hoped to be saved by, was, 1. Not being so bad as

¹ i.e. The proper Christian faith.

other people. 2. Having still a kindness for religion. And 3. Reading the Bible, going to Church, and saying my prayers.

3. Being removed to the University, for five years, I still said my prayers, both in public and in private, and read, with the Scriptures, several other books of religion, especially comments on the New Testament. Yet I had not all this while so much as a notion of inward holiness; nay, went on habitually and (for the most part) very contentedly, in some or other known sin; indeed, with some intermission and short struggles, especially before and after the Holy Communion, which I was obliged to receive thrice a year. I cannot well tell what I hoped to be saved by now, when I was continually sinning against that little light I had, unless by those transient fits of what many divines taught me to call repentance.

4. When I was about 22, my father pressed me to enter into Holy Orders. At the same time the providence of God directing me to Kempis's "Christian Pattern," I began to see, that true religion was seated in the heart, and that God's law extended to all our thoughts, as well as words and actions. I was, however, very angry at Kempis, for being too strict, though I read him only in Dean Stanhope's translation. Yet I had frequently much sensible comfort in reading him, such as I was an utter stranger to before; and meeting likewise with a religious friend, which I never had till now, I began to alter the whole form of my conversation, and to set in earnest upon a new life. I set apart an hour or two a day for religious retirement. I communicated every week. I watched against all sin, whether in word or deed. I began to aim at, and pray for inward holiness. So that now, "doing so much, and living so good a life," I doubted not but I was a good Christian.

5. Removing soon after to another college, I executed a resolution, which I was before convinced was of the utmost importance, shaking off at once all my trifling acquaintance. I began to see more and more the value of time. I applied myself closer to study. I watched more carefully against actual sins. I advised others to be religious, according to that scheme of religion by which I modelled my own life. But meeting now with Mr. Law's "Christian Perfection" and "Serious Call," (although I was much offended at many parts of both,

yet) they convinced me more than ever of the exceeding height, and breadth, and depth of the law of God. The light flowed in so mightily upon my soul, that every thing appeared in a new view. I cried to God for help, and resolved not to prolong the time of obeying him as I had never done before. And by my continued "endeavour to keep his whole law," inward and outward, "to the utmost of my power," I was persuaded that I should be accepted of him, and that I was even then in a state of salvation.

6. In 1730, I began visiting the prisons, assisting the poor and sick in town, and doing what other good I could, by my presence or my little fortune, to the bodies and souls of all men. To this end I abridged myself of all superfluities, and many that are called necessities of life. I soon became a by-word for so doing, and I rejoiced that "my name was cast out as evil." The next spring I began observing the Wednesday and Friday fasts, commonly observed in the ancient Church; tasting no food till three in the afternoon. And now I knew not how to go any farther. I diligently strove against all sin. I omitted no sort of self-denial which I thought lawful; I carefully used, both in public and in private, all the means of grace at all opportunities. I omitted no occasion of doing good: I for that reason suffered evil. And all this I knew to be nothing, unless as it was directed toward inward holiness. Accordingly this, the image of God, was what I aimed at in all, by doing his will, not my own. Yet when, after continuing some years in this course, I apprehended myself to be near death, I could not find that all this gave me any comfort, or any assurance of acceptance with God. At this I was then not a little surprised, not imagining I had been all this time building on the sand, nor considering that "other foundation can no man lay, than that which is laid by God, even Christ Jesus."

7. Soon after a contemplative man convinced me, still more than I was convinced before, that outward works are nothing, being alone; and in several conversations instructed me how to pursue inward holiness, or a union of the soul with God. But even of his instructions, (though I then received them as the words of God,) I cannot but now observe, 1. That he spoke so incautiously against trusting in outward works, that he discouraged

me from doing them at all. 2. That he recommended (as it were, to supply what was wanting in them) mental prayer, and the like exercises, as the most effectual means of purifying the soul, and uniting it with God. Now these were in truth, as much my own works as visiting the sick or clothing the naked; and the union with God thus pursued, was as really my own righteousness, as any I had before pursued under another name.

8. In this refined way of trusting to my own works, and my own righteousness, (so zealously inculcated by the mystic writers,) I dragged on heavily, finding no comfort or help therein, till the time of my leaving England. On shipboard, however, I was again active in outward works; where it pleased God, of his free mercy, to give me twenty-six of the Moravian brethren for companions, who endeavoured to show me a more excellent way. But I understood it not at first. I was too learned and too wise. So that it seemed foolishness unto me. And I continued preaching and following after and trusting in that righteousness, whereby no flesh can be justified.

9. All the time I was at Savannah I was thus beating the air. Being ignorant of the righteousness of Christ, which by a living faith in him bringeth salvation "to every one that believeth," I sought to establish my own righteousness, and so laboured in the fire all my days. I was now, properly under the law; I knew that the law of God was spiritual; I consented to it, that it was good. Yea, I delighted in it, after the inner man. Yet was I carnal, sold under sin. Every day was I constrained to cry out, "What I do, I allow not; for what I would, I do not; but what I hate, that I do. To will is indeed present with me; but how to perform that which is good, I find not. For the good which I would, I do not, but the evil which I would not, that I do. I find a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me; even the law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and still bringing me into captivity to the law of sin."

10. In this vile, abject state of bondage to sin, I was indeed fighting continually, but not conquering. Before, I had willingly served sin; now it was unwillingly; but still I served it. I fell and rose, and fell again. Sometimes I was overcome, and in heaviness; sometimes I

overcame, and was in joy. For as in the former state, I had some fortastes of the terrors of the Law, so had I in this, of the comforts of the Gospel. During this whole struggle between nature and grace, (which had now continued above ten years,) I had many remarkable returns to prayer; especially when I was in trouble. I had many sensible comforts, which are indeed no other than short anticipations of the life of faith. But I was still under the law, not under grace: (the state most who are called Christians are content to live and die in.) For I was only striving with, not freed from sin; neither had I the witness of the Spirit with my spirit; and indeed could not; for I sought it not by faith, but (as it were) by the works of the law.

11. In my return to England, January, 1738, being in imminent danger of death, and very uneasy on that account, I was strongly convinced that the cause of that uneasiness was unbelief, and that the gaining a true, living faith, was the one thing needful for me. But still I fixed not this faith on its right object: I meant only faith in God, not faith in or through Christ. Again, I knew not that I was wholly void of this faith; but only thought I had not enough of it. So that when Peter Böhler, whom God prepared for me as soon as I came to London, affirmed of true faith in Christ, (which is but one,) that it had those two fruits inseparably attending it, "Dominion over sin, and constant peace from a sense of forgiveness," I was quite amazed, and looked upon it as a new Gospel. If this was so, it was clear, I had not faith. But I was not willing to be convinced of this. Therefore I disputed with all my might, and laboured to prove, that faith might be where these were not; especially where the sense of forgiveness was not: for all the Scriptures relating to this, I had been long since taught to construe away, and to call all Presbyterians who spoke otherwise. Besides, I well saw, no one could (in the nature of things) have such a sense of forgiveness, and not feel it. But I felt it not. If then there was no faith without this, all my pretensions to faith dropped at once.

12. When I met Peter Böhler again, he consented to put the dispute upon the issue which I desired, viz. Scripture and experience. I first consulted the Scripture. But when I set aside the glosses of men, and simply

considered the word of God, comparing them together, endeavouring to illustrate the obscure by the plainer passages, I found they all made against me, and was forced to retreat to my last hold, "That experience would never agree with the *literal interpretation* of those Scriptures. Nor could I, therefore, allow it to be true, till I found some living witnesses of it." He replied, "He could show me such at any time; if I desired it, the next day." And accordingly, the next day, he came with three others, all of whom testified of their own personal experience, that a true living faith in Christ is inseparable from a sense of pardon for all past, and freedom from all present sins. They added with one mouth, that this faith was the gift, the free gift of God, and that He would surely bestow it upon every soul who earnestly and perseveringly sought it. I was now thoroughly convinced; and, by the grace of God, I resolved to seek it unto the end; 1. By absolutely renouncing all dependance, in whole or in part, upon my own works or righteousness, on which I had really grounded my hope of salvation, though I knew it not, from my youth up. 2. By adding to the constant use of all the other means of grace, continual prayer for this very thing, justifying, saving faith; a full reliance on the blood of Christ shed for *me*; a trust in him as *my* Christ, as *my* sole justification, sanctification, and redemption.

13. I continued thus to seek it, (though with strange indifference, dullness, and coldness, and usually frequent relapses into sin,) till Wednesday, May 24. I think it was about five this morning that I opened my Testament on those words: Τὰ μέγιστα ἡμῖν καὶ τίμια ἐπαγγέλματα δέδωρηται, ἵνα γένηθε θεοὺς κοινωνοὶ φύσεως. "There are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, even that ye should be partakers of the divine nature." (2 Pet. i. 4.) Just as I went out, I opened it again on those words: "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God." In the afternoon I was asked to go to St. Paul's. The anthem was, "Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice. O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint. If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it? But there is mercy with thee; therefore thou shalt be feared. O Israel, trust in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous

redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins."

14. In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate-street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me, that he had taken away *my* sins, even *mine*, and saved *me* from the law of sin and death.

15. I began to pray with all my might for those who had in a more especial manner despitelully used me and persecuted me. I then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart. But it was not long before the enemy suggested, "This cannot be faith; for where is thy joy?" Then was I taught, that peace and victory over sin are essential to faith in the Captain of our salvation; but, that as to the transports of joy that usually attend the beginning of it, especially in those who have mourned deeply, God sometimes giveth, sometimes withholdeth them, according to the counsels of his own will.

16. After my return home, I was much buffeted with temptations; but cried out, and they fled away. They returned again and again. I as often lifted up my eyes, and he sent me help from his holy place. And herein I found the difference between this and my former state chiefly consisted. I was striving, yea, fighting with all my might under the law, as well as under grace; but then I was sometimes, if not often, conquered: now, I was always conqueror.

17. Thur. May 25. The moment I awaked, "Jesus, Master," was in my heart and in my mouth; and I found all my strength lay in keeping my eye fixed upon him, and my soul waiting on him continually. Being again at St. Paul's in the afternoon, I could taste the good word of God in the anthem, which began, "My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: with my mouth will I ever be showing forth thy truth from one generation to another." Yet the enemy injected a fear, "If thou dost believe, why is there not a more sensible change?" I answered, (yet not I,) "That I know not. But this I know, I have 'now peace with God.'

And I sin not to-day, and Jesus my Master has forbid me to take thought for the morrow."

18. "But is not any sort of fear (continued the tempter) a proof that thou dost not believe?" I desired my Master to answer for me; and opened his book upon those words of St. Paul: "Without were fightings, within were fears." Then, inferred I, Well may fears be within me; but I must go on, and tread them under my feet.

Fri. May 26. My soul continued in peace, but yet in heaviness, because of manifold temptations. I asked Mr. Telchig, the Moravian, what to do. He said, "You must not fight with them as you did before, but flee from them the moment they appear, and take shelter in the wounds of Jesus." The same I learned also from the afternoon anthem, which was, "My soul truly waiteth still upon God; for of him cometh my salvation: he verily is my strength and my salvation; he is my defence, so that I shall not greatly fall. O put your trust in him always, ye people; pour out your hearts before him; for God is our hope."

Sat. 27. Believing one reason of my want of joy was, want of time for prayer, I resolved to do no business till I went to church in the morning, but to continue pouring out my heart before Him. And this day my spirit was enlarged; so that though I was now also assaulted by many temptations, I was more than conqueror, gaining more power thereby to trust and to rejoice in God my Saviour.

Sun. 28. I waked in peace, but not in joy. In the same even, quiet state I was till the evening, when I was roughly attacked in a large company as an enthusiast, a seducer, and a setter forth of new doctrines. By the blessing of God I was not moved to anger; but, after a calm and short reply, went away; though not with so tender concern as was due to those who were seeking death in the error of their life.

This day I preached, in the morning, at St. George's, Bloomsbury, on, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith;" and, in the afternoon, at the chapel in Long Acre, on God's justifying the ungodly;—the last time (I understand) I am to preach at either. "Not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Mon. 29. I set out for Dummer with Mr. Wolf, one of the first-fruits of Peter Böhler's ministry in England. I

was much strengthened by the grace of God in him : yet was his state so far above mine, that I was often tempted to doubt whether we had one faith. But, without much reasoning about it, I held here ; " Though his be strong and mine weak, yet that God hath given some degree of faith even to me, I know by its fruits : for I have constant peace ; not one uneasy thought : and I have freedom from sin ; not one unholy desire."

Yet on Wednesday did I grieve the Spirit of God, not only by not " watching unto prayer," but likewise by speaking with sharpness instead of tender love, of one that was not sound in the faith. Immediately God hid his face, and I was troubled ; and in this heaviness I continued till the next morning, June 1, when it pleased God, while I was exhorting another, to give comfort to my soul, and (after I had spent some time in prayer) to direct me to those gracious words, " Having, therefore, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,—let us draw near, with a true heart, in full assurance of faith. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering ; (for he is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another, to provoke unto love and to good works."

" Sat. June 3. I was so strongly assaulted by one of my old enemies, that I had scarce strength to open my lips, or even to look up for help. But after I had prayed faintly as I could, the temptation vanished away.

Sun. 4. Was indeed a feast-day. For, from the time of my rising till past one in the afternoon, I was praying, reading the Scriptures, singing praise, or calling sinners to repentance. All these days I scarce remember to have opened the Testament, but upon some great and precious promise. And I saw more than ever, that the Gospel is, in truth, but one great promise, from the beginning of it to the end.

Tues. 6. I had still more comfort, and peace, and joy ; on which I fear I began to presume. For, in the evening, I received a letter from Oxford, which threw me into much perplexity. It was asserted therein, " That no doubting could consist with the least degree of true faith : that whoever, at any time, felt any doubt or fear, was not weak in faith, but had no faith at all ; and that none hath any faith till the law of the spirit of life has made him wholly free from the law of sin and death."

Begging of God to direct me, I opened my Testament on 1 Cor. iii. ver. 1, &c., where St. Paul speaks of those whom he terms, babes in Christ; who were "not able to bear strong meat," nay, in a sense, carnal; to whom, nevertheless, he says, "Ye are God's building, ye are the temple of God." Surely, then, these men had some degree of faith; though it is plain their faith was but weak.

After some hours spent in the Scripture and prayer, I was much comforted. Yet I felt a kind of soreness in my heart, so that I found my wound was not fully healed. O God, save thou me, and all that are weak in the faith, from doubtful disputations!

Wed. June 7. I determined, if God should permit, to retire for a short time into Germany. I had fully proposed before I left Georgia so to do, if it should please God to bring me back to Europe, and I now clearly saw the time was come. My weak mind could not bear to be thus sawn asunder; and I hoped the conversing with these holy men, who were themselves living witnesses of the full power of faith, and yet able to bear with those that are weak, would be a means, under God, of so establishing my soul, that I might "go on from faith to faith, and from strength to strength."

Thur. 8. I went to Salisbury to take leave of my mother. The next day I left Sarum, and on Saturday came to Stanton Harcourt. Having preached faith in Christ there on Sunday 11, I went on to Oxford; and thence on Monday to London, where I found Mr. Ingham just setting out. We went on board the next day, Tuesday, 13, and fell down to Gravesend that night. About four in the afternoon on Wednesday we lost sight of England. We reached the Mease at eight on Thursday morning, and in an hour and a half landed at Rotterdam.

We were eight in all, five English and three Germans. Dr. Koker, a physician of Rotterdam, was so kind, when we set forward in the afternoon, as to walk an hour with us on our way. I never before saw any such road as this. For many miles together, it is raised for some yards above the level, and paved with a small sort of brick, as smooth and clean as the Mall in St. James's. The walnut-trees stand in even rows on either side: so that no walk in a gentleman's garden is pleasanter. About seven we came to Goudart, where we were a little

surprised at meeting with a treatment which is not heard of in England. Several inns utterly refused to entertain us; so that it was with difficulty we at last found one, where they did us the favour to take our money for some meat and drink, and the use of two or three bad beds. They pressed us much in the morning to see their church, but were displeased at our pulling off our hats when we went in; telling us, "We must not do so; it was not the custom there." It is a large old building, of the Gothic kind, resembling some of our English cathedrals. There is much history-painting in the windows, which, they told us, is greatly admired. About eight we left Goudart, and in a little more than six hours we reached Ysselstein.

Here we were at Baron Wattevil's as at home. We found with him a few German brethren and sisters, and seven or eight of our English acquaintance, who had settled here some time before. They lodged just without the town, in three or four little houses, till one should be built that would contain them all. Saturday, 17, was their Intercession-day. In the morning, some of our English brethren desired me to administer the Lord's Supper. The rest of the day we spent with all the brethren and sisters, in hearing the wonderful work which God is beginning to work over all the earth, and in making our requests known unto him, and giving him thanks for the mightiness of his kingdom.

At six in the morning we took boat. The beautiful gardens lie on both sides the river, for great part of the way to Amsterdam, whither we came about five in the evening. The exact neatness of all the buildings here, the nice cleanness of the streets, (which, we were informed, were all washed twice a week,) and the canals which run through all the main streets, with rows of trees on either side, make this the pleasantest city which I have ever seen. Here we were entertained with truly Christian hospitality, by Mr. Decknatel, a Minister of the Mennonists, who suffered us to want nothing while we stayed here, which was till the Thursday following. Dr. Barkausen, (a Physician, a Muscovite by nation,) who had been with Mr. Decknatel for some time, showed us likewise all possible kindness. Remember them, O Lord, for good!

Mon. 19, I was at one of the Societies, which lasted

an hour and a half. About sixty persons were present. The singing was in Low-Dutch, (Mr. Decknatel having translated into Low-Dutch part of the Hernhuth hymn-book,) but the words were so very near the German, that any who understood the original, might understand the translation. The expounding was in High-Dutch. I was at another of the Societies on Tuesday, where were present about the same number. On Wednesday, one of our company found a sheep that had been lost; his sister, who had lived there for some time with one whom she loved too well, as he did her. But they were now both resolved, by the grace of God, (which they accordingly executed without delay,) "to pluck out the right eye, and cast it from them."

Thur. 22. We took boat at eight in the evening, and landing at four in the morning, walked on to Uutfass, which we left about two, having now another boy added to our number. A little before eight we came to Bourn; a small ill-built city, belonging to the Prince of Orange. Setting out early in the morning, we came to Nimwegen, the last town in Holland, about two in the afternoon; and leaving it at four, came before eight to an inn, two hours short of Cleve.

Sun. 25. After spending an hour in singing and prayer, we walked till near noon, before we could meet with any refreshment. The road would have appeared exceeding pleasant, being broad and straight, with tall trees on either side, had not weariness and rain prevented. We hoped to reach Reinberg in the evening, but could not; being obliged to stop two hours short of it, at a little house, where many good Lutherans were concluding the Lord's day (as is usual among them) with fiddling and dancing!

Mon. 26. We breakfasted at Reinberg, left it at half an hour past ten, and at four came to Urding. Being much tired, we rested here, so that it was near ten at night before we came to Neus. Having but a few hours' walk from hence to Colen, we went thither easily, and came at five the next evening into the ugliest, dirtiest city, I ever yet saw with my eyes.

Wed. 28. We went to the cathedral, which is mere heaps upon heaps; a huge, mis-shapen thing, which has no more of symmetry than of neatness belonging to it. I was a little surprised to observe, that neither in this,

nor in any other of the Romish churches, where I have been, is there, properly speaking, any such thing as joint worship; but one prays at one shrine or altar, and another at another, without any regard to, or communication with, one another. As we came out of the church, a procession began on the other side of the church-yard. One of our company scrupling to pull off his hat, a zealous Catholic presently cried out, "Knock down the Lutheran dog." But we prevented any contest, by retiring into the church.

Walking on the side of the Rhine in the afternoon, I saw, to my great surprise, (for I always thought before, no Romanist of any fashion believed any thing of the story,) a fresh painting, done last year at the public expense, on the outside of the city wall, "in memory of the bringing in the heads of the three kings [says the Latin inscription] through the gate adjoining;" which indeed, in reverence (it seems) to them, has been stopped up ever since.

At four we took boat, when I could not but observe the decency of the Papists, above us who are called Reformed. As soon as ever we were seated, (and so every morning after,) they all pulled off their hats, and each used by himself, a short prayer for our prosperous journey. And this justice I must do to the very boatmen, (who upon the Rhine are generally wicked even to a proverb,) I never heard one of them take the name of God in vain, or saw any one laugh when any thing of religion was mentioned. So that I believe the glory of sporting with sacred things is peculiar to the English nation!

We were four nights on the water, by reason of the swiftness of the stream, up which the boat was drawn by horses. The high mountains on each side the river, rising almost perpendicular, and yet covered with vines to the very top, gave us many agreeable prospects: a religious house, or old castle, every now and then appearing on the brow of one of them. On Sunday evening, July 2, we came to Mentz; and Monday the 3d, at half an hour past ten, to Frankfort.

Faint and weary as we were, we could have no admittance here, having brought no passes with us; which indeed we never imagined would have been required in a time of settled general peace. After waiting an hour at the gates, we procured a messenger, whom we sent

to Mr. Böhler; (Peter Böhler's father;) who immediately came, procured us entrance into the city, and entertained us in the most friendly manner. We set out early in the morning on Tuesday the 4th, and about one came to Marienborn. But I was so ill, that after talking a little with Count Zinzendorf, I was forced to lie down the rest of the day.

The family at Marienborn consists of about ninety persons, gathered out of many nations. They live for the present in a large house hired by the Count, which is capable of receiving a far greater number; but are building one, about three (English) miles off, on the top of a fruitful hill. "O how pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Thur. 6. The Count carried me with him to the Count of Solmes, where I observed with pleasure the German frugality. Three of the young Countesses (though grown up) were dressed in linen; the Count and his son in plain cloth. At dinner, the next day, a glass of wine and a glass of water were set by every one, and if either were emptied, a second. They all conversed freely and unaffectedly. At ten at night we took coach again, and in the morning we reached Marienborn.

I lodged with one of the brethren at Eckershausen, an English mile from Marienborn, where I usually spent the day, chiefly in conversing with those who could speak either Latin or English; not being able, for want of more practice, to speak German readily. And here I continually met with what I sought for, viz. Living proofs of the power of faith: persons saved from inward as well as outward sin, by "the love of God shed abroad in their hearts;" and from all doubt and fear, by the abiding witness of "the Holy Ghost given unto them."

Sun. 9. The Count preached in the old castle at Runneberg, (about three English miles from Marienborn,) where is also a small company of those who seek the Lord Jesus in sincerity.

Wed. 12, was one of the conferences for strangers; where one of Frankfort proposing the question, Can a man be justified and not know it? the Count spoke largely and scripturally upon it to this effect:—

1. Justification is the forgiveness of sins.
2. The moment a man flies to Christ he is justified:
3. And has peace with God, but not always joy:

4. Nor perhaps may he know he is justified till long after :

5. For the assurance of it is distinct from justification itself.

6. But others may know he is justified by his power over sin, by his seriousness, his love of the brethren, and his "hunger and thirst after righteousness," which alone prove the spiritual life to be begun.

7. To be justified is the same thing as to be born of God. (Not so.)

8. When a man is awakened, he is begotten of God, and his fear and sorrow and sense of the wrath of God are the pangs of the new birth.

I then recollected what Peter Böhler had often said upon this head, which was to this effect :

1. When a man has living faith in Christ, then is he justified :

2. This is always given in a moment,

3. And in that moment he has peace with God ;

4. Which he cannot have without knowing that he has it :

5. And being born of God, he sinneth not :

6. Which deliverance from sin he cannot have without knowing that he has it.

Sat. 15. Was the Intercession-day, when many strangers were present from different parts. On Monday, 17, having stayed here ten days longer than I intended, (my first design being only to rest one or two days,) I proposed setting out for Hernhuth; but Mr. Ingham desiring me to stay a little longer, I stayed till Wednesday, 19; when Mr. Hauptman, (a native of Dresden,) Mr. Brown, and I set out together.

We breakfasted at Gchlenhausen, an old, unhandsome town, dined at Offenau, (where is a strange instance of moderation, a church used every Sunday, both by the Papists and the Lutherans alternately,) and notwithstanding some sharp showers of rain, in the evening reached Steinau. Thursday, 20, we dined at Braunsal, and passing through Fulda in the afternoon, (where the Duke has a pleasant palace,) travelled through a delightful country of hills and vales, and in the evening came to Rickhersch. The next night (after having had the most beautiful prospect which I think I ever saw, from the top of a high hill, commanding a vast extent of various

land on every side,) we, with some difficulty and many words, procured a poor accommodation at an inn in Marksul. Saturday, 22, having passed through Eisenach in the morning, we came through a more level open country, to Saxe-Gotha in the afternoon; a neat and pleasant city, in which the Prince's palace is indeed a fine building. We stopped an hour here with a friendly man, and in the evening came to Ditleben; and thence in the morning to Erfurt, where we were kindly entertained by Mr. Reinhurt, to whom we were directed by some of the brethren of Marienborn. In the afternoon we came to Weymar, where we had more difficulty to get through the city than is usual, even in Germany; being not only detained a considerable time at the gate, but also carried before I know not what great man (I believe, the Duke) in the square; who, after many other questions, asked, What we were going so far as Hernhuth for? I answered, "To see the place where the Christians live." He looked hard, and let us go.

Mon. 24. We came early to Jena, which lies at the bottom of several high, steep, barren hills. The students here are distinguished from the townsmen by their swords. They do not live together in colleges, (nor indeed in any of the German universities,) as we do in Oxford and Cambridge; but are scattered up and down the town, in lodging or boarding-houses. Those of them to whom we were recommended, behaved as brethren indeed. O may brotherly kindness, and every good word and work, abound in them more and more!

At Jena the stone pillars begin, set up by the Elector of Saxony, and marking out every quarter of a German mile, to the end of his Electorate. Every mile is a large pillar, with the names of the neighbouring towns, and their distances inscribed. It were much to be wished, that the same care were taken in England, and indeed in all countries.

We left Jena early on Tuesday, reached Weisenseltz in the evening, and Merseberg on Wednesday morning. Having a desire to see Halle, (two German miles off,) we set out after breakfast, and came thither at two in the afternoon. But we could not be admitted into the town when we came. The King of Prussia's tall men, who kept the gates, sent us backward and forward, from one gate to another, for near two hours. I then thought

of sending in a note to professor Francke, the son of that August. Herman Francke, whose name is indeed as precious ointment. O may I follow him, as he did Christ; and "by manifestation of the truth, commend myself to every man's conscience in the sight of God!"

He was not in town. However we were at length admitted into the orphan-house; that amazing proof, that "all things are (still) possible to him that believeth." There is now a large yearly revenue for its support; beside what is brought in by the printing-office, the books sold there, and the apothecary's shop, which is furnished with all sorts of medicines. The building reaches backward from the front in two wings, for, I believe, a hundred and fifty yards. The lodging-chambers for the children, their dining-room, their chapel, and all the adjoining apartments, are so conveniently contrived, and so exactly clean, as I have never seen any before. Six hundred and fifty children (we were informed) are wholly maintained there, and three thousand (if I mistake not) taught. Surely, such a thing neither we nor our fathers have known, as this great thing which God has done here!

Thur. 27. We returned to Merseberg, and at five in the evening came to the gates of Leipsig. After we had sent in our pass, and waited an hour and a half, we were suffered to go to a bad inn in the town.

Fri. 28. We found out Mr. Merschall, and the other gentlemen of the university, to whom we were directed. They were not wanting in any good office while we stayed, and in the afternoon went with us an hour forward in our journey.

After a pleasant walk on Saturday, on Sunday, 30, about seven in the morning, we came to Meissen. In Meissen-Castle, the German china-ware is made, which is full as dear as that imported from the Indies; and as finely shaped, and beautifully coloured, as any I have ever seen. After breakfast we went to Church. I was greatly surprised at all I saw there: at the costliness of apparel in many, and the gaudiness of it in more; at the huge fur caps worn by the women, of the same shape with a Turkish turban; which generally had one or more ribands hanging down a great length behind. The Minister's habit was adorned with gold and scarlet, and a vast cross both behind and before. Most of the congre-

gation sat, (the men generally with their hats on, at the prayers as well as sermon,) and all of them stayed during the Holy Communion, though but very few received. Alas, alas! what a reformed country is this!

At two in the afternoon we came to Dresden, the chief city of Saxony. Here also we were carried for above two hours from one magistrate or officer to another, with the usual impertinent solemnity, before we were suffered to go to our inn. I greatly wonder that common sense, and common humanity, (for these doubtless subsist in Germany as well as England,) do not put an end to this senseless, inhuman usage of strangers, which we met with at almost every German city, though more particularly at Frankfort, Weymar, Halle, Leipsig and Dresden. I know nothing that can reasonably be said in its defence, in a time of full peace, being a breach of all the common, even heathen laws of hospitality. If it be a custom, so much the worse; the more is the pity and the shame.

In the evening we saw the palace the late Elector was building, when God called him away. The stone-work he had very near finished, and some of the apartments within. It is a beautiful and magnificent design; but all is now swiftly running to ruin. The new church, on the outside, resembles a theatre. It is eight square, built of fine free-stone. We were desired also to take notice of the great bridge, which joins the new with the old town; of the large brass crucifix upon it, generally admired for the workmanship; and of the late King Augustus's statue on horseback, which is at a small distance from it. Alas! where will all these things appear, when "the earth and the works thereof shall be burned up?"

Between five and six the next evening, (having left Mr. Hauptman with his relations in Dresden,) we came to Neustadt, but could not procure any lodging in the city. After walking half an hour, we came to another little town, and found a sort of an inn there: but they told us plainly, "we should have no lodging with them; for they did not like our looks."

About eight we were received at a little house in another village, where God gave us sweet rest.

Tues. Aug. 1. At three in the afternoon, I came to Hernhuth, about thirty English miles from Dresden. It lies in Upper-Lusatia, on the border of Bohemia, and

114 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

contains about a hundred houses, built on a rising ground, with evergreen woods on two sides, gardens and corn-fields on the others, and high hills at a small distance. It has one long street, through which the great road from Zittau to Lobau goes. Fronting the middle of this street is the orphan-house; in the lower part of which is the apothecary's shop; in the upper, the chapel, capable of containing six or seven hundred people. Another row of houses runs at a small distance from either end of the orphan-house, which accordingly divides the rest of the town (beside the long street) into two squares. At the east end of it is the Count's house; a small plain building, like the rest; having a large garden behind it well laid out, not for show but for the use of the community.

We had a convenient lodging assigned us in the house appointed for strangers; and I had now abundant opportunity of observing whether what I had heard was enlarged by the relators, or was neither more nor less than the naked truth.

I rejoiced to find Mr. Hermsdorf here, whom I had so often conversed with in Georgia. And there was nothing in his power which he did not do, to make our stay here useful and agreeable. About eight we went to the public service, at which they frequently use other instruments with their organ. They began (as usual) with singing. Then followed the expounding, closed by a second hymn: prayer followed this; and then a few verses of a third hymn, which concluded the service.

Wed. 2. At four in the afternoon was a love-feast of the married men; taking their food with gladness and singleness of heart, and with the voice of praise and thanksgiving.

Thur. 3, (and so every day at eleven,) I was at the Bible-conference, wherein Mr. Millar, (late master of a great school in Zittau, till he left all to follow Christ,) and several others, read together, as usual, a portion of Scripture in the original. At five was the conference for strangers, when several questions concerning justification were resolved. This evening Christian David came hither. O may God make him a messenger of glad tidings!

On Friday and Saturday, (and so every day in the following week,) I had much conversation with the most

experienced of the brethren, concerning the great work which God had wrought in their souls, purifying them by faith; and with Martin Dober, and the other teachers and elders of the church, concerning the discipline used therein.

Sun. 6. We went to church at Bertholdsdorf, a Lutheran village, about an English mile from Hernhuth. Two large candles stood lighted upon the altar: the Last Supper was painted behind it; the pulpit was placed over it, and over that, a brass image of Christ on the cross.

The Minister had on a sort of pudding-sleeve gown, which covered him all round. At nine began a long voluntary on the organ, closed with a hymn, which was sung by all the people sitting: (in which posture, as is the German custom, they sung all that followed.) Then the Minister walked up to the altar, bowed; sung these Latin words, *Gloria in excelsis Deo*: bowed again, and went away. This was followed by another hymn, sung as before, to the organ, by all the people. Then the Minister went to the altar again, bowed, sung a prayer, read the Epistle and went away. After a third hymn was sung, he went a third time to the altar, sung a versicle, (to which all the people sung a response,) read the third chapter to the Romans, and went away. The people having then sung the Creed in rhyme, he came and read the Gospel, all standing. Another hymn followed, which being ended, the Minister in the pulpit used a long extemporary prayer, and afterwards preached an hour and a quarter on a verse of the Gospel. Then he read a long intercession and general thanksgiving, which, before twelve, concluded the service.

After the evening service at Hernhuth was ended, all the unmarried men, (as is their custom,) walked quite round the town, singing praise with instruments of music; and then on a small hill, at a little distance from it, casting themselves into a ring, joined in prayer. Thence they returned into the great square, and a little after eleven, commended each other to God.

Tues. 8. A child was buried. The burying ground (called by them Gottes Acker, i.e. God's ground) lies a few hundred yards out of the town, under the side of a little wood. There are distinct squares in it for married men and unmarried; for married and unmarried women;

for male and female children, and for widows. The corpse was carried from the chapel, the children walking first; next the Orphan-father, (so they call him who has the chief care of the Orphan-house,) with the Minister of Bertholdsdorf; then four children, bearing the corpse; and after them, Martin Dober, and the father of the child. Then followed the men, and last of all the women and girls. They all sung as they went. Being come into the square where the male children are buried, the men stood on two sides of it, the boys on the third, and the women and girls on the fourth. There they sung again: after which the Minister used (I think read) a short prayer, and concluded with that blessing, "Unto God's gracious mercy and protection I commit you."

Seeing the father (a plain man, a tailor by trade) looking at the grave, I asked, "How do you find yourself?" He said, "Praised be the Lord; never better. He has taken the soul of my child to himself. I have seen, according to my desire, his body committed to holy ground: and I know that when it is raised again, both he and I shall be ever with the Lord."

Several evenings this week I was with one or other of the private bands. On Wednesday and Thursday I had an opportunity of talking with Michael Linner, the eldest of the church, and largely with Christian David, who, under God, was the first planter of it.

Four times also I enjoyed the blessing of hearing him preach, during the few days I spent here; and every time he chose the very subject which I should have desired, had I spoken to him before. Thrice he described the state of those who are weak in faith; who are justified, but have not yet a new, clean heart; who have received forgiveness through the blood of Christ, but have not received the constant indwelling of the Holy Ghost. This state he explained once from, "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven;" when he showed at large, from various Scriptures, that many are children of God and heirs of the promises, long before their hearts are softened by holy mourning; before they are "comforted" by the abiding witness of the Spirit, melting their souls into all gentleness and "meekness;" and much more, before they are renewed in all that "righteousness," which they "hungered and thirsted" after; before they are "pure in heart" from all self-will

and sin, and "merciful" as their Father, which is in heaven, is merciful.

A second time he pointed out this state from those words, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." Hence also, he at large both proved the existence, and showed the nature, of that intermediate state, which most experience between that bondage which is described in the seventh chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, and the full glorious liberty of the children of God, described in the eighth, and in many other parts of Scripture.

This he yet again explained from the Scriptures which describe the state the Apostles were in, from our Lord's death (and indeed for some time before) till the descent of the Holy Ghost at the day of Pentecost. They were then "clean" as Christ himself had borne them witness, "by the word which he had spoken unto them." They then had faith, otherwise he could not have prayed for them, that their "faith" might "not fail." Yet, they had not, in the full sense, "new hearts;" neither had they received "the gift of the Holy Ghost."

The fourth sermon which he preached, concerning the ground of faith, made such an impression upon me, that when I went home, I could not but write down the substance of it, which was as follows:--

"The word of reconciliation which the Apostles preached, as the foundation of all they taught, was, that we are reconciled to God, not by our own works, nor by our own righteousness, but wholly and solely by the blood of Christ.

"But, you will say, must I not grieve and mourn for my sins? Must I not humble myself before God? Is not this just and right? And must I not first do this before I can expect God to be reconciled to me? I answer, it is just and right. You must be humbled before God. You must have a broken and contrite heart. But then observe, this is not your own work. Do you grieve that you are a sinner? This is the work of the Holy Ghost. Are you contrite? Are you humbled before God? Do you indeed mourn, and is your heart broken within you? All this worketh the self-same spirit.

"Observe again, this is not the foundation. It is not this by which you are justified. This is not the righteousness, this is no part of the righteousness by which you are reconciled unto God. You grieve for your sins. You are deeply humble. Your heart is broken. Well: but all this is nothing to your justification. The remission of your sins is not owing to this cause, either in whole or in part. Your humiliation and contrition have no influence on that. Nay, observe farther, that it may hinder your justification, that is, if you build any thing upon it; if you think, I must be so or so contrite. I must grieve more, before I can be justified. Understand this well. To think you must be more contrite, more humble, more grieved, more sensible of the weight of sin, before you can be justified, is to lay your contrition, your grief, your humiliation for the foundation of your being justified; at least for a part of the foundation. Therefore it hinders your justification; and a hinderance it is which must be removed before you can lay the right foundation. The right foundation is, not your contrition, (though that is not your own,) not your righteousness; nothing of your own; nothing that is wrought in you by the Holy Ghost; but it is something without you, viz. The righteousness and the blood of Christ.

"For this is the word, 'To him that believeth on God that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.' See ye not that the foundation is nothing in us? There is no connexion between God and the ungodly. There is no tie to unite them. They are altogether separate from each other. They have nothing in common. There is nothing less or more in the ungodly, to join them to God. Works, righteousness, contrition? No; ungodliness only. This then do, if you will lay a right foundation: Go straight to Christ with all your ungodliness. Tell him, thou whose eyes are as a flame of fire searching my heart, seest that I am ungodly. I plead nothing else. I do not say I am humble or contrite; but I am ungodly. Therefore bring me to him that justifieth the ungodly. Let thy blood be the propitiation for me. For there is nothing in me but ungodliness.

"Here is a mystery. Here the wise men of the world are lost, are taken in their own craftiness. This the learned of the world cannot comprehend. It is foolishness unto them. Sin is the only thing which divides men from

God. Sin (let him that heareth understand) is the only thing which unites them to God; *i.e.* the only thing which moves the Lamb of God to have compassion upon, and, by his blood, to give them access to the Father.

"This is the 'word of reconciliation' which we preach. This is the foundation which never can be moved. By faith we are built upon this foundation: and this faith also is the gift of God. It is his free gift, which he now and ever giveth to every one that is willing to receive it. And when they have received this gift of God, then their hearts will melt for sorrow that they have offended him. But this gift of God lives in the heart, not in the head. The faith of the head, learned from men or books, is nothing worth. It brings neither remission of sins, nor peace with God. Labour then to believe with your whole heart: So shall you have redemption through the blood of Christ: So shall you be cleansed from all sin: So shall ye go on from strength to strength, being renewed day by day in righteousness and all true holiness."

Sat. 12. Was the Intercession-day, when many strangers were present, some of whom came twenty or thirty miles. I would gladly have spent my life here; but my Master calling me to labour in another part of his vineyard, on Monday, 14, I was constrained to take my leave of this happy place; Martin Dober, and a few others of the brethren, walking with us about an hour. O when shall this Christianity cover the earth, as the "waters cover the sea!"

To hear, in what manner God, "out of darkness, commanded this light to shine," must be agreeable to all those in every nation, who can testify from their own experience, "The gracious Lord hath so done his marvellous acts, that they ought to be had in remembrance." I shall therefore here subjoin the substance of several conversations, which I had at Hernhuth, chiefly on this subject. And may many be incited hereby to give praise "unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever!"

It was on August 10, (old style,) that I had an opportunity of spending some hours with Christian David. He is a carpenter by trade, more than middle-aged, though I believe not fifty yet. Most of his words I understood well; if at any time I did not, one of the brethren who

went with me, explained them in Latin. The substance of what he spoke, I immediately after wrote down; which was as follows:—

“When I was young, I was much troubled at hearing some affirm, that the Pope was Antichrist. I read the Lutheran books written against the Papists, and the Popish books written against the Lutherans. I easily saw that the Papists were in the wrong; but not that the Lutherans were in the right. I could not understand what they meant, by being justified by faith, by faith alone, by faith without works. Neither did I like their talking so much of Christ. Then I began to think, How can Christ be the Son of God? But the more I reasoned with myself upon it, the more confused I was, till at last I loathed the very name of Christ. I could not bear to mention it. I hated the sound of it; and would never willingly have either read or heard it. In this temper I left Moravia, and wandered through many countries, seeking rest but finding none.

“In these wanderings I fell among some Jews. Their objections against the New Testament threw me into fresh doubts. At last I set myself to read over the Old Testament, and see if the prophecies therein contained were fulfilled. I was soon convinced they were. And thus much I gained, A fixed belief that Jesus was the Christ.

“But soon after this a new doubt arose, Are the New Testament prophecies fulfilled? This I next set myself to examine. I read them carefully over, and could not but see every event answered the prediction: so that the more I compared the one with the other, the more fully I was convinced that, ‘All scripture was given by inspiration of God.’

“Yet still my soul was not in peace: nor indeed did I expect it, till I should have openly renounced the errors of Popery; which accordingly I did at Berlin. I now also led a very strict life. I read much and prayed much. I did all I could to conquer sin; yet it profited not; I was still conquered by it. Neither found I any more rest among the Lutherans than I did before among the Papists.

“At length, not knowing what to do, I listed myself a soldier. Now I thought I should have more time to pray and read, having with me a New Testament and a hymn-

book. But in one day, both my books were stolen. This almost broke my heart. Finding also in this way of life all the inconveniences which I thought to avoid by it, after six months I returned to my trade, and followed it two years. Removing then to Gorlitz, in Saxony, I fell into a dangerous illness. I could not stir hand or foot for twenty weeks. Pastor Sleder came to me every day. And from him it was, that the Gospel of Christ came first with power to my soul.

"Here I found the peace I had long sought in vain; for I was assured my sins were forgiven. Not indeed all at once, but by degrees: not in one moment, nor in one hour. For I could not immediately believe that I was forgiven, because of the mistake I was then in concerning forgiveness. I saw not then, that the first promise to the children of God is, 'sin shall no more reign over you;' but thought, I was to feel it in me no more, from the time it was forgiven. Therefore, although I had the mastery over it, yet I often feared it was not forgiven, because it still stirred in me, and at sometimes thrust sore at me that I might fall: because though it did not reign, it did remain in me; and I was continually tempted, though not overcome. This at that time threw me into many doubts: not understanding that the Devil tempts, properly speaking, only those whom he perceives to be escaping from him. He need not tempt his own: for they 'lie in the wicked one,' (as St. John observes,) and do his will with greediness. But those whom Christ is setting free, he tempts day and night, to see if he can recover them to his kingdom. Neither saw I then, that the being justified, is widely different from the having the full assurance of faith. I remembered not, that our Lord told his apostles before his death, 'Ye are clean;' whereas it was not till many days after it, that they were fully assured by the Holy Ghost then received, of their reconciliation to God through his blood. The difference between these fruits of the Spirit was as yet hid from me; so that I was hardly and slowly convinced I had the one, because I had not the other.

"When I was recovered from my illness, I resolved to return into Moravia, and preach Christ to my relations there. Thence I came back to Gorlitz, where I continued five years, and there was a great awakening both in the town and country round about. In this space I made two

more journies into Moravia, where more and more came to hear me, many of whom promised to come to me, wherever I was, when a door should be opened for them.

"After my return from my third journey, Count Zinzendorf sent to Gorlitz, the Minister of Bertholdsdorf being dead, for Mr. Rothe, who was in a gentleman's family there, to be Minister of that place. Mr. Rothe told him of me, and he wrote to me to come to him, and when I came, said, 'Let as many as will of your friends come hither; I will give them land to build on, and Christ will give them the rest.' I went immediately into Moravia and told them, God had now found out a place for us. Ten of them followed me then; ten more the next year; one more in my following journey. The Papists were now alarmed, set a price upon my head, and levelled the house I had lodged in even with the ground. I made however, eleven journies thither in all, and conducted as many as desired it to this place, the way to which was now so well known, that many more came of themselves.

"Eighteen years ago we built the first house. We chose to be near the great road rather than at Bertholdsdorf, (for the Count gave us our choice,) hoping we might thereby find opportunities of instructing some that travelled by us. In two years we were increased to a hundred and fifty; when I contracted an intimate acquaintance with a Calvinist, who after some time brought me over to his opinion touching election and reprobation; and by me were most of our brethren likewise brought over to the same opinions. About this time we were in great straits, wherewith many were much dejected. I endeavoured to comfort them with the sense of God's love towards them. But they answered, "Nay, it may be he hath no love towards us; it may be we are not of the election: but God hated us from eternity, and therefore he hath suffered all these things to come upon us.' The Count observing this, desired me to go to a neighbouring minister, Pastor Steinmetz, and talk with him fully on that head, 'Whether Christ died for all?' I did so, and by him God fully convinced me of that important truth. And not long after, the Count desired we might all meet together, and consider these things thoroughly. We met accordingly at his house, and parted not for three days. We opened the Scriptures, and considered the account which is given therein, of the whole economy of God with

man, from the creation to the consummation of all things; and by the blessing of God we came all to one mind; particularly in that fundamental point, that 'He willeth all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of his truth!'

"Some time after, the Jesuits told the Emperor, that the Count was gathering together all the Moravians and Bohemians, forming them into one body, and making a new religion. Commissioners were immediately sent to Hernhuth, to examine the truth of this. The substance of the final answer returned through them to the Emperor was as follows:—

"An extract of the public instrument signed at Hernhuth, in August, 1729.

"1. WE believe the Church of the Bohemian and Moravian Brethren, from whom we are descended, to have been a holy and undefiled Church, as is owned by Luther and all other Protestant divines; who own also that our doctrine agrees with theirs: but our discipline they have not.

"2. But we do not rest upon the holiness of our ancestors; it being our continual care to show that we are passed from death unto life, by worshipping God in spirit and in truth. Nor do we account any man a brother, unless he has either preserved inviolate the covenant he made with God in baptism, or, if he has broken it, been born again of God.

"3. On the other side, whosoever they are, who, being sprinkled by the blood of Christ, are sanctified through faith, we receive them as brethren; although in some points they may differ from us. Not that we can renounce or give up any doctrine of God, contained in Holy Writ; the least part of which is dearer unto us than thousands of gold and silver.

"4. Discipline we judge to be necessary in the highest degree, for all those who have any knowledge of divine truth: and we can therefore in no wise forsake that, which we have received from our forefathers. Yet if it should ever be, (which God forbid,) that any of us should speak or act perverse things, we could only say, with St. John, 'They went forth from us, but were not of us: for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.'

"5. The public worship of God at Bertholdsdorf, which we have hitherto frequented, we are the less able now to

forsake, because we have there an assembly of true believers, a doctrine free from error, and a Pastor who, 'having laboured much in the word, is worthy of double honour.' Therefore we have no cause to form any congregation, separate from this; especially seeing we both use that liberty which Christ hath purchased for us; and so often experience the power of the doctrine which is taught there, and agree with the evangelical Protestants, (i.e. Lutherans,) in all truths of importance. As for the controverted points, which require a subtle wit, we either are ignorant of them, or despise them.

" '6. The name of brethren and sisters we do not reject, as being agreeable both to Scripture and to Christian simplicity. But we do not approve of being called by the name of any man; as knowing, 'we have one father, even Him which is in heaven.'

" 'In 1732 we were again required to give an account of ourselves. This was then done, in the manner following :—

" '*An extract of a letter wrote by the Church of Hernhuth, to the President of Upper Lusatia, January 24, 1732.*

" '1. NONE can be ignorant of the religion of our ancestors, who have read the history of John Huss. Some of his followers endeavoured to repel force by force. The rest, having better learned Christ, obtained leave of George Podibrad, King of Bohemia, to retire and live apart. Retiring accordingly in the year 1453, to a place on the borders of Silesia and Moravia, they lived in peace till the time of Luther and Calvin, with both of whom, as with their followers, they maintained a friendly intercourse; especially when, by the providence of God, they were placed among those of either opinion.

" '2. In the year 1699, David Ernest Jablonsky, grandson to Amos Comenius, the last Bishop of the Moravians, was consecrated Bishop of the United Brethren in Moravia, Bohemia, and Poland, in a synod regularly assembled. To him Count Zinzendorf signified, that several of the Moravian brethren, having escaped from the tyranny of the Papists, were so joined to the Lutherans, whose doctrine they approved, as nevertheless to retain their ancient discipline. His entire approbation of this, Bishop Jablonsky testified to the Count in several letters.

“ ‘ 3. It must be acknowledged, that many of our ancestors, about the beginning of the Reformation, from fear of man, did not openly confess the truth. And hence it was that the Romish Pastors bore with them; being little concerned what their private opinions were. But hence it also was, that continually using dissimulation, and not walking in simplicity, they were no longer fervent in spirit, as of old time, neither could they find any peace to their souls.

“ ‘ 4. It was in the year 1715, that a soldier of the Emperor's, lately discharged, came to Sehl, a village of which the Jesuits are Lords, and began to talk with Augustin Neusser and his brother. He sharply reproved their hypocrisy, in pretending to be Romanists, and dissembling the true faith. Yet they ‘ conferred with flesh and blood,’ till the year 1722, when at length they forsook all, and retired into Upper Lusatia. They left three brothers behind them, who were soon after cast into prison, and grievously persecuted by the Papists; so that as soon as ever a door was opened, they also left all, and followed their brothers into Lusatia. The same did many others soon after, as finding no safety, either for body or soul in their own country: whence about the same time, Michael and Martin Linner and the Haberlands were driven out, with their families, after having suffered the loss of all things for not conforming to the Romish worship, and for receiving those they called Heretics into their houses.

“ ‘ 5. But the brethren at Kuhnewald were treated with still greater severity. All their books were taken away; they were compelled by the most exquisite torments to conform to the Popish superstitions and idolatries; and in the end cast into, and kept in, the most loathsome prisons; whereby David Schneider, the Nitschmans, and many others, were constrained also to leave their country, and all that they had. These are the plain reasons of our leaving Moravia, of which your Excellency desired an account from us.’

“ In the mean time we found a great remissness of behaviour had crept in among us. And indeed the same was to be found in most of those round about us, whether Lutherans or Calvinists; so insisting on faith, as to forget, at least in practice, both holiness and good works.

“ Observing this terrible abuse of preaching Christ

given for us, we began to insist more than ever, on Christ living in us. All our exhortations and preaching turned on this: we spoke, we wrote, of nothing else. Our constant inquiries were, 'Is Christ formed in you? Have you a new heart? Is your soul renewed in the image of God? Is the whole body of sin destroyed in you? Are you fully assured, beyond all doubt or fear, that you are a child of God? In what manner, and at what moment, did you receive that full assurance?' If a man could not answer all these questions, we judged he had no true faith; nor would we permit any to receive the Lord's Supper among us, till he could.

"In this persuasion we were, when I went to Greenland, five years ago. There I had a correspondence by letter with a Danish Minister, on the head of justification. And it pleased God to show me by him, (though he was by no means a holy man, but openly guilty of gross sins,) that we had now leaned too much to this hand, and were run into another extreme; that Christ in us and Christ for us, ought indeed to be both insisted on; but first and principally Christ for us, as being the ground of all. I now clearly saw we ought not to insist on any thing we feel, any more than any thing we do, as if it were necessary previous to justification, or the remission of sins. I saw, that least of all ought we so to insist on the full assurance of faith, or the destruction of the body of sin, and the extinction of all its motions, as to exclude those who had not attained this from the Lord's table, or to deny that they had any faith at all. I plainly perceived, this full assurance was a distinct gift from justifying faith, and often not given till long after it; and that justification does not imply that sin should not stir in us, but only that it should not conquer.

"And now first it was, that I had that full assurance of my own reconciliation to God, through Christ. For many years I had had the forgiveness of my sins, and a measure of the peace of God; but I had not till now that witness of his Spirit, which shuts out all doubt and fear. In all my trials I had always a confidence in Christ, who had done so great things for me. But it was a confidence mixed with fear; I was afraid I had not done enough. There was always something dark in my soul till now. But now the clear light shined; and I saw that what I had hitherto so constantly insisted on, the doing so much, and

feeling so much the long repentance and preparation for believing, the bitter sorrow for sin, and that deep contrition of heart which is found in some, were by no means essential to justification. Yea, that wherever the free grace of God is rightly preached, a sinner in the full career of his sins, will probably receive it, and be justified by it, before one who insists on such previous preparation.

"At my return to Hernhuth, I found it difficult at first, to make my brethren sensible of this, or to persuade them not to insist on the assurance of faith, as a necessary qualification for receiving the Lord's Supper. But from the time they were convinced, which is now three years since, we have all chiefly insisted on Christ given for us.¹ This we urge as the principal thing: which if we rightly believe, Christ will surely be formed in us: and this preaching we have always found to be accompanied with power, and to have the blessing of God following it. By this believers receive a steady purpose of heart, and a more unshaken resolution to endure, with a free and cheerful spirit, whatsoever our Lord is pleased to lay upon them."

The same day I was with Michael Linner, the eldest of the Church; the sum of whose conversation was this:—

"The Church of Moravia was once a glorious Church; but it is now covered with thick darkness. It is about sixteen years ago, that I began to seek for light. I had a New Testament, which I constantly read: upon which I often said to myself, 'This says, I ought to be humble, and meek, and pure in heart. How comes it that I am not so?' I went to the best men I knew, and asked, 'Is not this the word of God? And if so, ought I not to be such as this requires, both in heart and life?' They answered, 'The first Christians were such; but it was impossible for us to be so perfect.' This answer gave me no satisfaction. I knew God could not mock his creatures, by requiring of them what he saw it was impossible for them to perform. I asked others; but had still the same answer, which troubled me more and more.

"About fourteen years ago, I was more than ever convinced, that I was wholly different from what God required me to be. I consulted his word again and again; but it spoke nothing but condemnation; till at last I could not read, nor indeed do any thing else, having no hope and

¹ I dare say this is right.

128 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

no spirit left in me. I had been in this state for several days, when, being musing by myself, these words came strongly into my mind : ' God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all who believe in him, should not perish but have everlasting life.' I thought, ' All? Then I am one : then he is given for me. But I am a sinner : and he came to save sinners.' Immediately my burden dropped off, and my heart was at rest.

" But the full assurance of faith I had not yet ; nor for the two years I continued in Moravia. When I was driven out thence by the Jesuits, I retired hither, and was soon after received into the Church. And here, after some time, it pleased our Lord to manifest himself more clearly to my soul, and give me that full sense of acceptance in him, which excludes all doubt and fear.

" Indeed the leading of the Spirit is different in different souls. His more usual method, I believe, is, to give in one and the same moment the forgiveness of sins, and a full assurance of that forgiveness. Yet in many he works as he did in me ; giving first the remission of sins, and after some weeks or months or years, the full assurance of it."

This great truth was further confirmed to me the next day by the conversation I had with David Nitschman, one of the Teachers or Pastors of the Church ; who expressed himself to this effect :—

" In my childhood I was very serious ; but as I grew up was so careless, that at eighteen years old I had even forgot to read. When I found this I was startled. I soon learned again, and then spent much time in reading and prayer. But I knew nothing of my heart, till about the age of twenty-six, I bought a Bible, and began to read the New Testament. The farther I read, the more I was condemned. I found a law which I did not, could not keep. I had a will to avoid all sin ; but the power I had not. I continually strove ; but was continually conquered. The thing which I would I did not ; but what I would not have done, that I did. In this bondage I was, when I fell into a fit of sickness ; during my recovery from which I felt a stronger desire than ever, to avoid all sin. At the same time I felt the power, and sin no longer reigned over me.

" But soon after I fell into grievous temptations, which

made me very uneasy. For though I yielded not to them, yet they returned again and again, as fast as they were conquered. Then it came into my mind, 'I take all this pains to serve God. What if there be no God? How do I know there is?' And on this I mused more and more, till I said in my heart, 'There is no God!'

"In this state I was when I came to Hernhuth, about fourteen years ago; and every day, for a full year, from morning to night, I groaned under this belief. Yet I prayed continually, unbelieving as I was; particularly one Sunday, when, being in the church of Bertholdsdorf, and quite weary of hearing so much of Him whose very being I did not believe, I vehemently said, 'O God, if thou be a God, thou must manifest thyself, or I cannot believe it.' In walking home, I thought of an expression of Pastor Rothe's: 'Only suppose these things are so: suppose there be a God.' I said to myself, 'Well, I will, I do suppose it.' Immediately I felt a strange sweetness in my soul, which increased every moment till the next morning; and from that time, if all the men upon earth, and all the devils in hell had joined in denying it, I could not have doubted the being of God; no, not for one moment. This first sweetness lasted for six weeks without any intermission.

"I then fell into doubts of another kind: I believed in God, but not in Christ. I opened my heart to Martin Dober, who used many arguments with me, but in vain. For above four years I found no rest, by reason of this unbelief; till one day, as I was sitting in my house despairing of any relief, those words shot into me, 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself.' I thought, 'Then God and Christ are one.' Immediately my heart was filled with joy; and much more at the remembrance of these words, which I now felt I did believe: 'The word was with God, and the word was God. And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.'

"Yet, in a few days I was troubled again. I believed Christ was the Saviour of the world; but I could not call him my Saviour; neither did I believe he would save me. And one day, as I was walking across the square, that text came strongly into my mind, 'The unbelieving shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.' I returned home, terrified beyond expres-

sion, and instantly began crying out to our Saviour, telling him, I deserved no less than hell, and gave myself up, if it were his will, to suffer what I had deserved. In a moment I found a gleam of hope, that he would have mercy even on me.

"But this in a short time vanished away, and my uneasiness returned again. Many endeavoured to persuade me that I had, but I knew I had not, a right faith in Christ. For I had no confidence in him; nor could I lay hold upon him as my Saviour. Indeed, reading one day, (in Arndt's True Christianity,) 'That if all the sins of all the men upon earth were joined in one man, the blood of Christ was sufficient to cleanse that man from all sin;' I felt for a time comfort and peace: but it was but for a time; and then I was overwhelmed, as before, with sadness and unbelief. And I was oppressed almost beyond my strength, when,¹ a year ago, I went into this little wood. At first I was tempted to break out into impatience; but then I thought, Our Saviour knows best; nor would he suffer this trouble to continue so long, if he did not see it was good for me. I delivered myself wholly into his hands, to dispose of me according to his good pleasure. In that hour I saw, that all who believe in him are reconciled to God through his blood; and was assured that I was thereby reconciled, and numbered among the children of God. And, from that hour, I have had no doubt or fear, but all peace and joy in believing."

Some of the circumstances of this uncommon relation were made more clear to me by the account I received in the afternoon from a student at Hernhuth, Albinus Theodorus Feder:—

"I (said he) for three years fought against sin with all my might, by fasting and prayer, and all the other means of grace. But, notwithstanding all my endeavours, I gained no ground; sin still prevailed over me; till, at last, not knowing what to do farther, I was on the very brink of despair. Then it was that, having no other refuge left, I fled to my Saviour, as one lost and undone,

¹N.B. *i.e.* In the year 1737; several years before which he was elected one of the four public Teachers of the Church; which office he retains to this day. Now, which of the two consequences will you choose: (for one or the other is unavoidable :) Either that a man may preach the Gospel, (yea, and with the demonstration of the Spirit,) who has no faith; or, that a man who has a degree of true faith, may yet have doubts and fears?

and that had no hope but in His power and free mercy. In that moment I found my heart at rest, in good hope that my sins were forgiven; of which I had a stronger assurance six weeks after, when I received the Lord's Supper here. But I dare not affirm I am a child of God; neither have I the seal of the Spirit. Yet I go on quietly doing my Saviour's will, taking shelter in his wounds from all trouble and sin, and knowing he will perfect his work in his own time.

"Martin Dober, when I described my state to him, said, He had known very many believers, who, if asked the question, would not have dared to affirm that they were the children of God. And he added, It is very common for persons to receive remission of sins, or justification through faith in the blood of Christ, before they receive the full assurance of faith; which God many times withholds till he has tried whether they will work together with him in the use of the first gift. Nor is there any need (continued he, Dober,) to incite any one to seek that assurance by telling him the faith he has is nothing. This will be more likely to drive him to despair than to encourage him to press forward. His single business, who has received the first gift, is, *credendo credere, et in credendo perseverare*: (to believe on, and to hold fast that whereunto he hath attained.) To go on doing his Lord's will, according to the ability God hath already given; cheerfully and faithfully to use what he has received, without solicitude for the rest."

In the conversation I afterwards had with Augustine Neusser, a knife-smith, (another of the Pastors or Teachers of the Church, about sixty years of age,) as also with his brothers, Wensel and Hantz Neusser, the nature of true faith and salvation was yet farther explained to me.

Augustine Neusser spoke to this effect:—

"By experience I know that we cannot be justified through the blood of Christ, till we feel that all our righteousness and good works avail nothing towards our justification. Therefore, what men call a good life is frequently the greatest of all hinderances to their coming to Christ. For it will not let them see that they are lost, undone sinners; and if they see not this, they cannot come unto him.

"Thus it was with me. I led a good life from a child. And this was the great hinderance to my coming to Christ. For, abounding in good works, and diligently using all the means of grace, I persuaded myself for thirteen or fourteen years, that all was well, and I could not fail of salvation. And yet I cannot say my soul was at rest, even till the time when God showed me clearly that my heart was as corrupt, notwithstanding all my good works, as that of an adulterer or murderer. Then my self-dependence withered away. I wanted a Saviour, and fled naked to him; and in him I found true rest to my soul, being fully assured that all my sins were forgiven. Yet I cannot tell the hour or day when I first received that full assurance. For it was not given to me at first, neither at once; but grew up in me by degrees. But, from the time it was confirmed in me, I never lost it; having never since doubted, no, not for a moment."

What Wensel Neusser said was as follows:—

"From a child I had many fits of seriousness, and was often uneasy at my sins: this uneasiness was much increased fifteen years since, by the preaching of Christian David. I thought, the way to get ease was, to go and live among the Lutherans, whom I supposed to be all good Christians: but I soon found they, as well as the Papists, were carnal, worldly-minded men. About thirteen years ago, I came from among them to Hernhuth; but was still as uneasy as before, which I do not wonder at now; (though I did then;) for all this time, though I saw clearly I could not be saved but by the death of Christ, yet I did not trust in that only for salvation; but depended on my own righteousness also, as the joint condition of my acceptance.

"After I was settled here, seeing the great diversity of sects wherewith we were surrounded, I began to doubt whether any religion was true. For half a year these doubts perplexed me greatly; and I was often just on the point of casting off all religion and returning to the world. The fear of doing this threw me into a deeper concern than ever I had been in before. Nor could I find how to escape; for the more I struggled the more I was entangled. I often reflected on my former course of life, as more desirable than this. And one day, in the bitterness of my soul, besought our blessed Saviour at least to

restore me to that state which I was in before I left Moravia. In that moment he manifested himself to me, so that I could lay hold on him as my Saviour, and showed me, it is only the blood of Christ which cleanseth us from all sin. This was ten years since; and from that hour I have not had one doubt of my acceptance. Yet I have not any transports of joy; nor had I when he thus revealed himself unto me; only I well remember, that manifestation of himself was like a cool, refreshing wind to one that is fainting away with sultry heat. And ever since, my soul has been sweetly at rest, desiring no other portion in earth or heaven."

"I was awakened (said Hantz Neusser) by my grandfather, when a child, and by him carefully instructed in the New Testament. I married young; and being, from that time, weak and sickly, was the more earnest to work out my salvation: and nineteen or twenty years ago, I had a strong confidence in our Saviour, and was continually warning others against trusting in themselves, in their own righteousness or good works. Yet I was not free from it myself. I did not trust in him only for acceptance with God. And hence it was, that not building on the right foundation, the blood and righteousness of Christ alone, I could not gain a full victory over my sins, but sometimes conquered them, and sometimes was conquered by them. And therefore I had not a full or constant peace, though I was commonly easy, and hoping for mercy.

"Sixteen years ago, (on Saturday next,) I came to my brother Augustine, at Hernhuth. There was then only one little house here. Here I continued eight years in much the same state, thinking I trusted in Christ alone; but, indeed, trusting partly in his and partly in my own righteousness. I was walking one day in this little wood, when God discovered my heart to me. I saw I had till that hour trusted in my own righteousness, and, at the same time, that I had no righteousness at all, being altogether corrupt and abominable, and fit only for the fire of hell. At this sight I fell into bitter grief, and an horrible dread overwhelmed me, expecting nothing (as I saw I deserved nothing else) but to be swallowed up in a moment. In that moment I beheld the Lamb of God taking away my sins. And from that time I have had redemption through his blood, and full assurance of it. I

have that peace in him which never fails, and which admits of no doubt or fear. Indeed I am but a little one in Christ; therefore I can receive as yet but little of him. But from his fullness I have enough; and I praise him and am satisfied."

In the three or four following days, I had an opportunity of talking with Zacharias Neusser, (cousin to Hantz,) David Schneider, Christopher Demuth, Arvid Gradin, (now at Constantinople,) and several others of the most experienced brethren. I believe no preface is needful to the account they gave of God's dealings with their souls, which I doubt not will stir up many, through his grace, to "glorify their Father which is in Heaven."

"I was born (said Zacharias Neusser) on the borders of Moravia, and was first awakened by my cousin Wensel, who soon after carried me to hear Mr. Steinmetz, a Lutheran Minister, about thirty English miles off. I was utterly astonished. The next week I went again: after which, going to him in private, I opened my heart, and told him all my doubts, those especially concerning Popery. He offered to receive me into communion with him, which I gladly accepted of; and, in a short time after, I received the Lord's Supper from his hands. While I was receiving, I felt Christ had died for me: I knew I was reconciled to God: and all the day I was overwhelmed with joy, having those words continually on my mind, 'This day is salvation come to my house: I also am a son of Abraham.' This joy I had continually for a year and a half, and my heart was full of love to Christ.

"After this I had thoughts of leaving Moravia. I was convinced it would be better for my soul: yet I would not do it; because I got more money here than I could elsewhere. When I reflected on this, I said to myself, 'This is mere covetousness. But if I am covetous, I am not a child of God.' Hence I fell into deep perplexity, nor could I find any way to escape out of it. In this slavery and misery I was for five years; at the end of which I fell sick. In my sickness my heart was set at liberty, and peace returned to my soul. I now prayed earnestly to God to restore my health, that I might leave Moravia. He did restore it, and I immediately returned to Hernhuth. After I had been here a quarter of a year,

the Count preached one day upon the nature of sanctification. I found I had not experienced what he described, and was greatly terrified. I went to my cousin Wensel, who advised me to read over the 3d, 4th, and 5th chapters of the Epistle to the Romans. I did so. I had read them a hundred times before; yet now they appeared quite new, and gave me such a sight of God's justifying the ungodly as I never had before. On Sunday I went to church at Bertholdsdorf, and while we were singing those words, '*Wir glauben auch in Jesum Christ,*' (we believe also in Jesus Christ,) I clearly saw him as my Saviour. I wanted immediately to be alone, and to pour out my heart before him. My soul was filled with thankfulness, and with a still, soft, quiet joy, such as it is impossible to express. I had full assurance that 'my Beloved was mine, and I was his;' which has never ceased to this day. I see by a clear light what is pleasing to him, and I do it continually in love. I receive daily from him peace and joy; and I have nothing to do but to praise him."

The most material part of David Schneider's account was this:--

"Both my father and mother feared God, and carefully instructed me in the holy Scriptures. I was from a child earnestly desirous to follow their instructions, and more so after my father's death. Yet, as I grew up, many sins got the dominion over me; of which God began to give me a sense, by the preaching of Pastor Steinmetz; who, speaking one day of drunkenness, to which I was then addicted, I was so grieved and ashamed, that for several days I could not bear to look any one in the face. It pleased God afterwards to give me, though not all at once, a sense of my other, both outward and inward, sins; and before the time of my coming out of Moravia, I knew that my sins were forgiven. Yet I cannot fix on any particular time when I knew this first; for I did not clearly know it at once, God having always done every thing in my soul by degrees.

"When I was about twenty-six, I was pressed in spirit to exhort and instruct my brethren. Accordingly many of them met at my house, to read, pray, and sing psalms. They usually came about ten or eleven, and stayed till one or two in the morning. When Christian David came

to us, we were much quickened and comforted, and our number greatly increased. We were undisturbed for two years. But then the Papists were informed of our meeting. Immediately search was made. All our books were seized, and we were ordered to appear before the Consistory. I was examined many times; was imprisoned, released and imprisoned again, five times in one year. At last I was adjudged to pay fifty rix-dollars, and suffer a year's imprisonment. But upon a re-hearing, the sentence was changed, and I was ordered to be sent to the gallies. Before this sentence was executed, I escaped out of prison, and came to Sorau in Silesia. Many of my brethren followed me, and here for near ten years I taught the children in the orphan-house. I soon sent for my wife and children. But the Magistrates had just then ordered, that the wives and children of all those who had fled should be taken into safe custody. The night before this order was to be executed, she escaped and came to Sorau.

"Soon after, some of my brethren who had been there, pressed me much to remove to Hernhuth: Christian David, in particular, by whose continued importunity I was at length brought to resolve upon it. But all my brethren at Sorau were still as strongly against it as I myself had formerly been. For a whole year I was struggling to break from them or to persuade them to go too: and it cost me more pains to get from Sorau than it had done to leave Moravia.

"At length I broke loose and came to Hernhuth, which was about three years ago. Finding I could scarce subsist my family here by hard labour, whereas at Sorau all things were provided for me, I grew very uneasy. The more uneasy I was, the more my brethren refrained from my company;¹ so that in a short time I was left quite alone. Then I was in deep distress indeed. Sin revived and almost got the mastery over me. I tried all ways, but found no help. In this miserable state I was about a year ago, when the brethren cast lots concerning me, and were thereby directed to admit me to the Lord's table. And from that hour my soul received comfort, and I was more and more assured that I had an advocate with the Father, and that I was fully reconciled to God by his blood."

¹ This was cruel and unchristian.

Christoph. Demuth spoke to this effect:—

“My father was a pious man from his youth. He carefully instructed all his children. I was about fifteen when he died. A little before he died, having been all his life-time under the law, he received at once remission of sins, and the full witness of the Spirit. He called us to him and said, ‘My dear children, let your whole trust be in the blood of Christ. Seek salvation in this, and in this alone, and he will show you the same mercy he has to me. Yea, and he will show it to many of your relations and acquaintance, when his time is come.’

“From this time till I was twenty-seven years old I was more and more zealous in seeking Christ. I then removed into Silesia, and married. A year after I was much pressed in spirit, to return and visit my brethren in Moravia. I did so. We had the New Testament, our Moravian hymns, and two or three Lutheran books. We read and sung and prayed together, and were much strengthened. One day as we were together at my house, one knocked at the door. I opened it, and it was a Jesuit. He said, ‘My dear Demuth, I know you are a good man, and one that instructs and exhorts your friends, I must see what books you have.’ And going into the inner room, he found the Testament, and the rest together. He took them all away; nor did we dare to hinder him. The next day we were summoned before the Consistory; and, after a long examination, ordered to appear in the church before the congregation on the following Sunday. There they read a long confession of faith, and afterwards bid us say, ‘In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.’ We did so, though not knowing what they meant. They then told us, ‘We had abjured the Lutheran errors, and called the blessed Trinity to witness, that we assented to that confession of faith.’ My heart sunk within me when I heard it. I went home, but could find no rest. I thought I had now denied my Saviour, and could expect no more mercy from him. I could not bear to stay in Moravia any longer, but immediately returned into Silesia. There I continued six years, but there too I was perpetually terrified with the thoughts of what I had done. I often inquired after my brethren whom I had left in Moravia. Some of them I heard were thrown into prison, and others escaped to a little village in Lusatia, called Hernhuth. I wished I could go to that

place myself, and at last meeting with one who had the same desire, we agreed to go together. But our design being discovered he was apprehended and thrown into prison. Expecting the same treatment, I earnestly prayed that God would show me a token for good. Immediately my soul was filled with joy, and I was ready to go to prison or to death.

"Two days passed, and no man asked me any question; when, doubting what I ought to do, I went into a neighbouring wood, and going into a little cave, fell on my face and prayed: 'Lord, thou seest I am ready to do what thou wilt: if it be thy will I should be cast into prison, thy will be done. If it be thy will that I should leave my wife and children, I am ready. Only show thy will.' Immediately I heard a loud voice saying, 'Fort, fort, fort: ' (Go on, go on.) I rose joyful and satisfied; went home and told my wife, 'It was God's will I should now leave her; but that I hoped to return in a short time, and take her and my children with me.' I went out of the door, and in that moment was filled with peace and joy and comfort.

"We had above two hundred miles to go; (thirty-five German;) and neither I, nor my friend who went with me, had one Kreutzer.¹ But God provided things convenient for us; so that in all the way we wanted nothing.

"In this journey God gave me the full assurance that my sins were forgiven. This was twelve years ago, and ever since it has been confirmed more and more, by my receiving from him every day fresh supplies of strength and comfort.

"By comparing my experience with that of others, you may perceive how different ways God leads different souls. But though a man should be led in a way different from that of all other men, yet if his eye be at all times fixed on his Saviour; if his constant aim be to do his will; if all his desires tend to him; if in all trials he can draw strength from him; if he fly to him in all troubles, and in all temptations find salvation in his blood; in this there can be no delusion. And whosoever is thus minded, however or whenever it began, is surely reconciled to God through his Son."

Arvid Gradin (a Swede, born in Dalecarlia) spoke to this purpose:—

¹ A small coin of about a halfpenny value.

"Before I was ten years old, I had a serious sense of religion, and great fervour in my prayer. This was increased by my reading much in the New Testament; but the more I read, the more earnestly I cried out, 'Either these things are not true, or we are not Christians.' About sixteen, my sense of religion began to decline, by my too great fondness for learning; especially the oriental tongues, wherein I was instructed by a private preceptor, who likewise did all that in him lay to instruct me in true divinity.

"At seventeen I went to the University of Upsal; and a year or two after was licensed to preach. But at twenty-two, meeting with "Arndt's True Christianity," found I myself was not a Christian. Immediately I left off preaching, and betook myself wholly to philosophy. This stifled all my convictions for some years; but when I was about twenty-seven, they revived, and continued the year after, when I was desired to be domestic tutor to the children of the Secretary of State. I now felt I was 'carnal, sold under sin,' and continually struggled to burst the bonds, till (being about thirty-one years old) I was unawares entangled in much worldly business. This cooled me in my pursuit of holiness; yet for a year and a half my heart was never at peace. Being then in a bookseller's shop, I saw the account of the Church at Hernhuth. I did not think there could be any such place, and asked the bookseller, if that was a real account? His answer, 'That it was no more than the plain truth,' threw me into deep thought, and fervent prayer, that God would bring me to that place. I went to the Secretary, and told him, 'I did not design to stay at Upsal, having a desire to travel.' He said, 'He had a desire his son should travel, and was glad of an opportunity to send him with me.' I was grieved, but knew not how to refuse any thing to my patron and benefactor. Accordingly we left Upsal together, and after a year spent in several parts of Germany, went through Holland into France, and so to Paris, where we spent another year. But I was more and more uneasy, till I could be disengaged from my charge, that I might retire to Hernhuth. In our return from France, my pupil's elder brother returning from Italy met us at Leipsig. I immediately writ to his father, and having obtained his consent, delivered him into his hands.

"April 23, 1738. (N. S.) I came hither. Here I was as in another world. I desired nothing but to be cleansed inwardly and outwardly from sin, by the blood of Jesus Christ. I found all here laying the same foundation. Therefore, though I did not think with them in all points of doctrine, I waived these, and singly pursued reconciliation with God through Christ.

"On the 22d of May last, I could think of nothing but, 'He that believeth hath everlasting life.' But I was afraid of deceiving myself, and continually prayed I might not build without a foundation. Yet I had a sweet, settled peace, and for five days this Scripture was always in my thoughts. On the 28th those words of our Lord were as strongly impressed upon me, 'If ye being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Ghost to them that ask him.' At the same time I was incessantly carried out, to ask, that He would give me the witness of his Spirit. On the 29th I had what I asked of him, viz. the *πληροφορία πίστεως*, which is,

"Requies in sanguine Christi. Firma fiducia in Deum, et persuasio de gratiâ divinâ; tranquillitas mentis summa, atque serenitas et pax; cum absentia omnis desiderii carnalis, et cessatione peccatorum etiam interiorum. Verbo, Cor quod antea instar maris turbulenti agitabatur, in summâ fuit requie, instar maris sereni et tranquilli."

"Repose in the blood of Christ. A firm confidence in God, and persuasion of his favour: serene peace and steadfast tranquillity of mind, with a deliverance from every fleshly desire, and from every outward and inward sin. In a word, my heart, which before was tossed like a troubled sea, was still and quiet, and in a sweet calm."

In the present Discipline of the Church of Hernhuth, all which is alterable at the discretion of the superiors, may be observed:

I. The officers of it:

II. The division of the people:

III. The conferences, lectures, and government of the children:

IV. The order of divine service.

I. The officers are, 1. The Eldest of the whole church; beside whom, there is an eldest of every particular branch of it. There is also a distinct eldest over the young men, and another over the boys; a female eldest over the

women in general, and another over the unmarried, and another over the girls: 2. the Teachers, who are four: 3. the Helpers: (or Deacons:) 4. the Overseers, (or Censors,) eleven in number at Hernhuth: 5. the Monitors, who are eleven likewise: 6. the Almoners, eleven also: 7. the Attenders on the sick, seven in number: lastly, the Servants, or deacons of the lowest order.

II. The people of Hernhuth are divided, 1. into five male classes, viz. the children, the middle children, the big children, the young men, and the married. The females are divided in the same manner. 2. Into eleven classes, according to the houses where they live: and in each class is a helper, an overseer, a monitor, an almoner and a servant. 3. Into about ninety bands, each of which meets twice at least, but most of them three times, a week, to "confess their faults one to another, and pray for one another, that they may be healed."

III. The Rulers of the Church; i.e. the Elders, Teachers, Helpers, have a Conference every week; purely concerning the state of souls, and another concerning the institution of youth. Beside which, they have one every day, concerning outward things relating to the Church.

The overseers, the monitors, the almoners, the attenders on the sick, the servants, the school-masters, the young men, and the children, have likewise each a conference once a week, relating to their several offices and duties.

Once a week also is a conference for strangers; at which any person may be present, and propose any question or doubt, which he desires to have resolved.

In Hernhuth is taught reading, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, English, history and geography.

There is a Latin, French, and an English lecture every day, as well as an historical and geographical one. On Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, is the Hebrew lecture; the Greek on Tuesday and Thursday.

In the Orphan-house, the larger children rise at five; the smaller, between five and six. After a little private prayer they work till seven. Then they are at school till eight, the hour of prayer. At nine those who are capable of it learn Latin, at ten French. At eleven they all walk. At twelve they dine together, and walk till one. At one they work or learn writing; at three arithmetic; at four history; at five they work; at six

142. Rev. John Wesley's Journal

sup and work; at seven, after a time spent in prayer, walk; at eight the smaller children go to bed, the larger to the public service. When this is ended, they work again, till (at ten) they go to bed.

IV. Every morning at eight is singing and exposition of Scripture; and commonly short prayer.

At eight in the evening, there is commonly only mental prayer,¹ joined with the singing and expounding.

The faithful afterwards spend a quarter of an hour in prayer, and conclude with the kiss of peace.

On Sunday morning the service begins at six; at nine the public service at Bertholdsdorf. At one the eldest gives separate exhortations to all the members of the church, divided into fourteen little classes for that purpose, spending about a quarter of an hour with each class. At four begins the evening service at Bertholdsdorf, closed by a conference in the church. At eight is the usual service; after which the young men, singing praises round the town, conclude the day.

On the first Saturday in the month, the Lord's Supper is administered. From ten in the morning till two, the eldest speaks with each communicant in private, concerning the state of his soul. At two they dine; then wash one another's feet, after which they sing and pray. About ten they receive in silence without any ceremony, and continue in silence till they part at twelve.

On the second Saturday is the solemn prayer-day for the children; the third is the day of general intercession and thanksgiving; and on the fourth is the great monthly Conference of all the superiors of the church.

For the satisfaction of those who desire a more full account, I have added,

AN EXTRACT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF THE MORAVIAN BRETHREN AT HERNHUTH, LAID BEFORE THE THEOLOGICAL ORDER AT WIRTEMBERG, IN THE YEAR 1733.

"1. THEY have a Senior, or Eldest, who is to assist the church by his counsel and prayers, and to determine what shall be done in matters of importance. Of him is required, that he be well experienced in the things of God, and witnessed to by all for holiness of conversation.

"2. They have Deacons, or Helpers, who are, in the

¹This is unscriptural.

private assemblies, to instruct; to take care that outward things be done decently and in order; and to see that every member of the church grows in grace, and walks suitable to his holy calling.

"3. The Pastor, or Teacher, is to be an overseer of the whole flock, and every person therein; to baptize the children; diligently to form their minds, and bring them up 'in the nurture and admonition of the Lord:' when he finds in them a sincere love of the cross, then to receive them into the church: to administer the Supper of the Lord; to join in marriage those who are already married to Christ; to reprove, admonish, quicken, comfort, as need requires; to declare the whole counsel of God;—taking heed at all times to speak as the oracles of God, and agreeably to the analogy of faith;—to bury those who have died in the Lord, and to keep that safe which is committed to his charge, even the pure doctrine and apostolical discipline which we have received from our forefathers.

"4. We have also another sort of Deacons who take care that nothing be wanting to the orphan-house, the poor, the sick, and the strangers. Others again there are, who are peculiarly to take care of the sick; and others of the poor. And two of these are entrusted with the public stock, and keep accounts of all that is received or expended.

"5. There are women who perform each of the above-mentioned offices, among those of their own sex: for none of the men converse with them, beside the eldest, the teacher, and one or two of the deacons.

"6. Towards magistrates, whether of a superior or inferior rank, we bear the greatest reverence. We cheerfully submit to their laws; and even when many of us have been spoiled of their goods, driven out of their houses, and every way oppressed by them, yet they resisted then not; neither opening their mouths, nor lifting up their hands against them. In all things which do not immediately concern the inward, spiritual kingdom of Christ, we simply, and without contradicting, obey the higher powers. But with regard to conscience, the liberty of this we cannot suffer to be any way limited or infringed. And to this head we refer whatever directly and in itself tends to hinder the salvation of souls; or whatsoever things Christ and his holy Apostles (who we know meddled

not with outward worldly things) took charge of, and performed, as necessary for the constituting and well-ordering of his Church. In these things we acknowledge no head but Christ; and are determined, God being our helper, to give up, not only our goods, (as we did before,) but life itself, rather than this liberty which God hath given us.

"7. As it behoves all Christians not to be slothful in business, but diligently to attend the works of their calling, there are persons chosen by the church, to superintend all those who are employed in outward business. And by this means also, many things are prevented which might otherwise be an occasion of offence.

"8. We have also Censors and Monitors. In those, experience and perspicuity, in these wisdom and modesty, are chiefly required. The Censors signify what they observe (and they observe the smallest things) either to the Deacons or Monitors. Some Monitors there are, whom all know to be such; others who are secretly appointed; and who, if need require, may freely admonish in the love of Christ, even the rulers of the church.

"9. The church is so divided, that first the husbands, then the wives, then the widows, then the maids, then the young men, then the boys, then the girls, and lastly the little children, are in so many distinct classes; each of which is daily visited, the married men by a married man, the wives by a wife, and so of the rest.¹ These larger are also (now) divided into near ninety smaller classes or bands, over each of which one presides who is of the greatest experience. All these leaders meet the senior every week, and lay open to him and to the Lord, whatsoever hinders or furthers the work of God in the souls committed to their charge.

"10. In the year 1727, four and twenty men, and as many women, agreed, That each of them would spend an hour in every day, in praying to God for his blessing on his people: and for this purpose both he men and the women chose a place, where any of their own sex, who were in distress, might be present with them. The same number of unmarried women, of unmarried men, of boys, and of girls, were afterwards, at their desire, added to them; who pour out their souls before God, not only for

¹ This work all the married brethren and sisters, as well as all the unmarried, perform in their turns.

their own brethren, but also for other churches and persons, that have desired to be mentioned in their prayers. And this perpetual intercession has never ceased day or night, since its first beginning.

"11. And as the members of the church are divided, according to their respective states and sexes; so they are also with regard to their proficiency in the knowledge of God. Some are dead, some quickened by the Spirit of God: of these, some again are untractable, some diligent, some zealous, burning with their first love; some babes, and some young men. Those who are still dead, are visited every day. And of the babes in Christ especial care is taken also, that they may be daily inspected and assisted to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

"12. In the Orphan-house, about seventy children are brought up separate, according to their sex: beside which, several experienced persons are appointed to consult with the parents, touching the education of the other children. In teaching them Christianity, we make use of Luther's Catechism, and study the amending their wills as well as their understanding; finding by experience, that when their will is moved, they often learn more in a few hours, than otherwise in many months. Our little children we instruct chiefly by hymns; whereby we find the most important truths most successfully insinuated into their minds.

"13. We highly reverence marriage, as greatly conducive to the kingdom of Christ. But neither our young men nor women enter into it till they assuredly know they are married to Christ. When any know it is the will of God that they should change their state, both the man and woman are placed for a time with some married persons, who instruct them how to behave, so that their married life may be pleasing to God. Then their design is laid before the whole church, and after about fourteen days, they are solemnly joined, though not otherwise habited than they are at other times. If they make any entertainment, (which is not always,) they invite only a few intimate friends, by whose faithful admonitions they may be the better prepared to bear their cross and fight the good fight of faith. If any woman is with child, not only especial mention is made of her in the public prayers, but she is also exhorted in private, wholly to give herself

up into the hands of her faithful Creator. As soon as a child is born, prayer is made for it, and if it may be, it is baptized in the presence of the whole church. Before it is weaned, it is brought into the assembly on the Lord's days.

"14. Whoever, either of the male or female children, seek God with their whole heart, need not be much incited to come to the Lord's Supper. Before they receive, they are examined both in private by the Pastor, and also in public; and then, after an exhortation by the Senior, are by him, through laying on of hands, added to the church and confirmed. The same method is used with those who renounce the papal superstitions, or who are turned from the service of Satan to God; and that, if they desire it, although they are not young; yea, though they are well stricken in years.

"15. Once or twice a month, either at Bertholdsdorf, or if it may be, at Hernhuth, all the church receives the Lord's Supper. It cannot be expressed how great the power of God is then present among us. A general confession of sins is made by one of the brethren in the name of all. Then a few solid questions are asked; which when they have answered, the absolution or remission of sins is either pronounced to all in general, or confirmed to every particular person, by the laying on of hands. The seniors first receive; then the rest in order, without any regard had to worldly dignity, in this, any more than in any other of the solemn offices of religion. After receiving, all the men (and so the women) meet together to renew their covenant with God, to seek his face, and exhort one another to the patience of hope, and the labour of love.

"16. They have a peculiar esteem for lots, and accordingly use them both in public and private, to decide points of importance, when the reasons brought on each side appear to be of equal weight. And they believe this to be then the only way of wholly setting aside their own will, of acquitting themselves of all blame, and clearly knowing what is the will of God.

"17. At eight in the morning, and in the evening, we meet to pray to and praise God, and to read and hear the Holy Scriptures: the time we usually spend in sleep, is from eleven at night till four in the morning. So that allowing three hours a day for taking the food both of

our bodies and souls, there remain sixteen for work. And this space those who are in health spend therein with all diligence and faithfulness.

"18. Two men keep watch every night in the street, as do two women, in the women's apartment: that they may pour out their souls for those that sleep; and by their hymns raise the hearts of any who are awake, to God.

"19. For the farther stirring up the gift which is in us, sometimes we have public, sometimes private love-feasts; at which we take moderate refreshment, with gladness and singleness of heart, and the voice of praise and thanksgiving.

"20. If any man among us, having been often admonished, and long forborn, persists in walking unworthy of his holy calling, he is no longer admitted to the Lord's Supper. If he still continues in his fault, hating to be reformed, the last step is, publicly, and often in the midst of many prayers and tears, to cast him out of our congregation. But great is our joy, if he then see the error of his ways, so that we may receive him among us again.

"21. Most of our brethren and sisters have, in some part of their life, experienced holy mourning and sorrow of heart; and have afterwards been assured, that there was no more 'condemnation' for them, being 'passed from death unto life.' They are, therefore, far from fearing to die, or desiring to live on earth; knowing that to them 'to die is gain,' and being confident that they are the care of Him, whose are the 'issues of life and death.' Wherefore they depart as out of one chamber into another. And after the soul has left its habitation, their remains are deposited in the earth, appointed for that purpose. And the survivors are greatly comforted, and rejoice over them, with a joy the world knoweth not of."

AN EXTRACT
OF THE
REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY'S JOURNAL,
FROM AUGUST 12, 1738, TO NOVEMBER 1, 1739.

If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought : but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it ; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. Acts v. 38, 39.

III.

PREFACE.

1. WHEN at first men began to lay to my charge things which I knew not, I often thought, " Had I but two or three intimate friends who knew what my life and conversation were, they might easily speak what they had seen and heard, and all such aspersions would fall to the ground." But I perceived my mistake as soon as I had two or three, who were my friends indeed, not in name only. For a way was easily found to prevent their being of any such use as I once imagined they would be. This was done at a stroke, and that once for all, by giving them and me a new name : a name which, however insignificant in itself, yet had this peculiar effect, utterly to disable me from removing whatever accusation might, for the time to come, be cast upon me, by invalidating all which those who knew me best were able to say in my behalf : nay, which any others could say. For, how notorious is it, that if any man dare to open his mouth in my favour, it needs only be replied, " I suppose you are a Methodist too," and all he has said is to pass for nothing.

2. Hence, on the one hand, many who knew what my

conversation was, were afraid to declare the truth, lest the same reproach should fall upon them; and those few who broke through this fear were soon disabled from declaring it with effect, by being immediately ranked with him they defended. What impartial man then can refuse to say, "It is permitted to thee to answer for thyself?" Only do not add, but "Thou shalt *not* persuade me, though thou *dost* persuade me: I am resolved to think as I did before." Not so, if you are a candid man. You have heard one side already. Hear the other. Weigh both. Allow for human weakness. And then judge as you desire to be judged.

3. What I design in the following extract is, openly to declare to all mankind what it is that the Methodists (so called) have done, and are doing now; or, rather, what it is that God hath done, and is still doing in our land. For it is not the work of man which hath lately appeared. All who calmly observe it must say, "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

4. Such a work this hath been in many respects, as neither we nor our fathers had known. Not a few whose sins were of the most flagrant kind, drunkards, swearers, thieves, whoremongers, adulterers, have been brought "from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God." Many of these were rooted in their wickedness, having long gloried in their shame, perhaps for a course of many years, yea even to hoary hairs. Many had not so much as a notional faith, being Jews, Arians, Deists, or Atheists. Nor has God only made bare his arm in these last days in behalf of open Publicans and Sinners; but many "of the Pharisees" also "have believed on him," of the righteous that needed no repentance; and, having "received the sentence of death in themselves, have then heard the voice that raiseth the dead:" have been made partakers of an inward, vital religion, even "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

5. The manner wherein God hath wrought this work in many souls, is as strange as the work itself. It has generally, if not always, been wrought in one moment. "As the lightning shining from heaven," so was "the coming of the Son of Man," either to bring peace or a sword; either to wound or to heal; either to convince of sin, or to give remission of sins in his blood. And the other circumstances attending it have been equally

remote from what human wisdom would have expected. So true is that word, "My ways are not as your ways, nor my thoughts as your thoughts."

6. These extraordinary circumstances seem to have been designed by God for the further manifestation of his work, to cause his power to be known, and to awaken the attention of a drowsy world. And yet, even from these some have drawn their grand objection against the whole work. "We never saw it," say they, "on this fashion;" *therefore* the work is not of God. To prove which farther, they have not only greatly misrepresented many circumstances that really were, but have added many that were not, often without any regard either to truth or probability. A bare recital of those facts, which were "not done in a corner," is the best answer to this sort of objections. To those which have been judged to be of more weight, I have occasionally given a more particular answer.

7. Yet I know even this will by no means satisfy the far greater part of those who are now offended. And for a plain reason, because they *will never read it*: they are resolved to hear one side, and one only. I know also, that many who do read it will be just of the same mind they were before; because they have fixed their judgment already, and *do not regard any thing which such a fellow can say*. Let them see to that. I have done my part. I have delivered mine own soul. Nay, I know that many will be greatly offended at this very account. It must be so, from the very nature of the things which are therein related. And the best appellation I expect from them is, that of a fool, a madman, an enthusiast. All that in me lies is, to relate simple truth in as inoffensive a manner as I can. Let God give it the effect which pleaseth him, and which is most for his glory!

8. May "He who hath the key of the house of David, who openeth and no man shutteth," open "a great and effectual door" by whom it pleaseth him, for his everlasting Gospel! May he "send by whom he will send," so it may "run and be glorified" more and more! May he "ride on conquering and to conquer," until "the fulness of the Gentiles be come in; and the earth be full of the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea!"

JOURNAL,

FROM AUGUST 12, 1738, TO NOVEMBER 1, 1739.

SATURDAY, Aug. 12. About seven in the evening we came to Neu-Kirche, a town about twenty-four miles from Hernhuth. Mr. Schneider (the Minister of it, who had desired us to take his house in our way) was not at home; but we found one Mr. Manætius there, the Minister of a neighbouring town, who walked with us in the morning ten miles to Hauswalde, where he lived. He told us, "That the Lutherans as well as the Papists, were irreconcilable enemies to the brethren of Hernhuth; that the generality of the Lutheran clergy were as bitter against them as the Jesuits themselves; that none of his neighbours durst go thither, (unless by stealth,) being sure of suffering for it, if discovered; that to prevent any of Hernhuth from coming to them, the Elector had forbid, under a severe penalty, any number of persons, exceeding three, to meet together on a religious account; and that he himself, for having a little society in his own parish, had been summoned to appear before the Consistory at Dresden." Yea, let the "Kings of the earth stand up and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed; He that sitteth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision."

. We left Hauswalde in the afternoon, and in the evening came to Dresden. But the officer at the gate would not suffer us to come in; so that we were obliged to go on to the next village; which leaving early in the morning, on Thursday, in the afternoon, we came to Leipsig.

We were now kept only an hour at the gate, and then conducted to Mr. Arnold's, who had invited us, when we were in the town before, to make his house our home. A few we found here too, who desire to "know nothing but Jesus Christ, and him crucified;" and from them we had letters to Halle, whither we came on Friday, 18. But the King of Prussia's tall men (who kept the gates) would not

suffer Mr. Brown to come in. Me they admitted, (in honour of my profession,) after I had waited about two hours; and one of them went with me to the Prince of Hesse, who, after a few questions, gave me leave to lodge in the city. Thence he showed me to Mr. Gotschalck's lodgings, to whom I had letters from Leipsig. He read them and said, "My brother, what you find here, you will use as your own; and if you want any thing else, tell us and you shall have it."

I told them, "My companion was without the gate." They soon procured admittance for him. And we were indeed as at home; for I have hardly seen such little children as these, even at Hernhuth.

Sat. 19. I waited on Professor Francke, who behaved with the utmost humanity; and afterwards on Professor Knappe, to whom also I am indebted for his open, friendly behaviour. Between ten and eleven, seven of the brethren set out with us, one of whom went with us two days' journey. It was the dusk of the evening on Sunday, 20, when, wet and weary, we reached Jena.

Mon. 21. We visited the schools there; the rise of which (as we were informed) was occasioned thus:—

About the year 1704, Mr. Stoltius, a student at Jena, began to speak of faith in Christ; which he continued to do, till he took his master's degree, and read public lectures. About twelve or fifteen students were awakened, and joined with him in prayer and building up one another. At this (after various calumnies spread abroad and divers persecutions occasioned thereby) the Consistory was offended, and issued out a commission to examine him. In consequence of the report made to the Consistory by these commissioners, he was forbid to read any public lectures, or to hold any meetings with his friends. Not long after an order was given, by which he was excluded from the Holy Communion. He was also to have been expelled the university; but this he prevented by a voluntary retirement.

Yet one of the commissioners, who had been sent by the Duke of Weymar, (one of the Lords of Jena,) informed the Duke, that according to his judgment, Stoltius was an innocent and holy man. On this the Duke sent for him to Weymar, and fixed him in a living there. There likewise he awakened many, and met with them to pray and read the Scriptures together. But it was not long

that the city could bear him : for he boldly rebuked all vice, and that in all persons, neither sparing the courtiers, nor the Duke himself. Consequently, his enemies every where increased, and many prosecutions followed. In fine, he was forbid to have any private meetings, and was to have been deposed from the ministry ; when God, calling him to himself, took him away from the evil to come.

Before Stoltius left Jena, Boddæus also began to preach the real Gospel, as did Christius soon after ; whereby some awakening continued till the year 1724. A few of the townsmen then agreed to maintain a student, to be a schoolmaster for some poor children. They afterwards kept several schoolmasters ; but about 1728, all of them going away, the school was broke up, and the children quite neglected. Professor Boddæus, being informed of this, earnestly recommended the consideration of it to the students in his house ; and about ten of them, among whom was Mr. Spangenberg, took upon themselves the care of those children. Their number soon increased, which gave great offence to the other schoolmasters in the town ; and not long after to the magistrates of the town, and to the senate of the University. The offence soon spread to the pastors, the professors, the consistory, and the princes who are lords of Jena. But it pleased God to move one of them, the Prince of Eisenach, who had the chief power there, to stop the open persecution, by forbidding either the senate or consistory to molest them. He likewise wholly exempted them from the jurisdiction of both, ordering that all complaints against them for the time to come should be cognizable only by himself. But during the persecution, the number of schools was increased from one to three, (one in each suburb of the city,) the number of teachers to above thirty, and of children to above three hundred.

There are now thirty constant teachers, ten in each school, and three or four supernumeraries, to supply accidental defects. Four of the masters are appointed to punish, who are affixed to no one school. Each of the schools being divided into two classes, and taught five hours a day, every one of the thirty masters has one hour in a day to teach. All the masters have a conference about the schools every Monday ; they have a second meeting on Thursday, chiefly for prayer ; and a third every Saturday.

Once in half a year they meet to fill up the places of those masters who are gone away : and the number has never decreased ; fresh ones still offering themselves, as the former leave the University.

The present method wherein they teach is this :—

There are always two classes in each school. In the lower, children from six to ten or twelve years old are taught to read : they are then removed to the other class ; in which are taught the Holy Scriptures, arithmetic, and whatever else it may be useful for children to learn.

In the morning, from eight to nine, they are all catechised, and instructed in the first principles of Christianity, either from Luther's smaller Catechism, or from some texts of Holy Scripture.

From nine to ten, the smaller children are taught their letters and syllables, and the larger read the Bible ; from ten to eleven, those in the lower class learn and repeat some select verses of Holy Scripture, chiefly relating to the foundation of the faith ; meanwhile those in the upper learn arithmetic.

In the afternoon, from one to two, all the children are employed as from nine to ten in the morning ; from two to three, the smaller children learn and repeat Luther's smaller Catechism, while the larger are taught to write.

Every Sunday there is a public catechising on some texts of Scripture ; at which all persons who desire it may be present.

In the afternoon we left Jena, several of the brethren accompanying us out of town. At five, having just passed through Weymar, we met Mr. Ingham going for Hernhuth. We all turned aside to a neighbouring village, where having spent a comfortable evening together, in the morning we commended each other to the grace of God, and went on our several ways.

We breakfasted at Erfurt with Mr. Reinhart, spent the evening with some brethren at Saxe-Gotha, and by long journeys came to Marienborn, on Friday, August 25.

Mon. 28. I took my leave of the Countess, (the Count being gone to Jena,) and setting out early the next morning, came about three in the afternoon to Franckfort. From Mr. Böhler's we went to the Society, where one of the brethren from Marienborn offered free redemption, through the blood of Christ, to sixty or seventy persons.

Wed. 30. In the afternoon we came to Mentz, and

agreed for our passage to Colen, by water, for a florin per head; which was but half what we gave before, though (it seems) twice as much as we ought to have given.

Thur. 31. We spent half an hour in the great church, a huge heap of irregular building, full of altars, adorned (or loaded rather) with abundance of gold and silver. In going out, we observed a paper on the door, which was of so extraordinary a nature, that I thought it would not be labour lost to transcribe it. The words were as follow :—

“ Vollkommener ablass fur die arme seelen im feg-feur.

“ Seine pübliche heiligkeit, Clemens der 12te, haben in diesem jahre 1738, den 7 Augusti, die psarr kirche des Sancti Christophori in Mentz gnadigsten privilegirt, dass ein jeder priester, so wohl secular als regularischen stands, der am aller seelen tag, wie auch an einem jedem tag in derselben octav; so dann am zweien vom ordinario tagen einer jeden woch das jahr hindurch, fur die seel eine christglaubigen verstobenen an zum altar mess lesen wird, jedesmahl eine seel aus dem feg-feur erlosen konne.”

“ A full release for the poor souls in purgatory.

“ His papal holiness, Clement the XIIth, hath this year, 1738, on the seventh of August, most graciously privileged the Cathedral Church of St. Christopher, in Mentz, so that every Priest, as well secular as regular, who will read mass at an altar for the soul of a Christian departed, on any holiday, or on any day within the octave thereof, or on two extraordinary days, to be appointed by the ordinary, of any week in the year, may each time deliver a soul out of the fire of purgatory.”

Now I desire to know, whether any Romanist, of common sense, can either defend or approve of this?

At eight we took boat, and on Saturday, Sept. 2, about eleven came to Colen; which we left at one, and between seven and eight reached a village, an hour short of Neus. Here we overtook a large number of Switzers, men, women, and children, singing, dancing and making merry, being all going to make their fortunes in Georgia. Looking upon them as delivered into my hands by God,

156 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

I plainly told them what manner of place it was. If they now leap into the fire with open eyes, their blood is on their own head.

Mon. 4. Before noon we came to Cleve, and to Nimwegen in the evening. The next night we lay at a little village near Tiel; which leaving early in the morning, we walked by the side of many pleasant orchards, and in the afternoon came to Ysselstein. We stayed only one night with the brethren, (in the new house, called Herndyke, an English mile from the town,) and hasting forward, came the next afternoon to Dr. Koker's, at Rotterdam.

I cannot but acknowledge the civility of this friendly man, all the time we stayed in his house. In the morning, Friday, 8th, we went to the English episcopal Church, which is a large, handsome, convenient building. The Minister read prayers seriously and distinctly, to a small, well-behaved congregation. Being informed our ship was to sail the next day, (Saturday,) we took leave of our generous friend, and went to an inn close to the Quay, that we might be ready when called to go aboard. Having waited till past four in the afternoon, we stepped into the Jews' Synagogue, which lies near the water side. I do not wonder that so many Jews (especially those who have any reflection) utterly abjure all religion. My spirit was moved within me, at that horrid, senseless pageantry, that mockery of God, which they called public worship. Lord, do not thou yet "cast off thy people!" But "in Abraham's seed" let them also be "blessed!"

The ship lingering still, I had time to exhort several English, whom we met with at our inn, to pursue inward religion; the renewal of their souls in righteousness and true holiness. In the morning a daughter of affliction came to see me, who teaches a school at Rotterdam. She had been for some time under deep convictions; but could find none to instruct or comfort her. After much conversation, we joined in prayer, and her spirit a little revived. Between nine and ten we went on board. In the afternoon I read prayers, and preached in the great cabin. The wind being contrary, we did not get out of the river till Wednesday; nor to London till Saturday night.

Sun. Sept. 17. I began again to declare in my own country the glad tidings of salvation, preaching three times, and afterwards expounding the Holy Scripture to

a large company in the Minories. On Monday I rejoiced to meet with our little Society, which now consisted of thirty-two persons. The next day I went to the condemned felons in Newgate, and offered them free salvation. In the evening I went to a Society in Bear-yard, and preached repentance and remission of sins. The next evening I spoke the truth in love at a Society in Aldersgate-street; some contradicted at first, but not long; so that nothing but love appeared at our parting.

Thur. 21. I went to a Society in Gutter-lane; but I could not declare the mighty works of God there, as I did afterwards at the Savoy, in all simplicity: and the word did not return empty.

Finding abundance of people greatly exasperated by gross misrepresentations of the words I had spoken, I went to as many of them in private, as my time would permit. God gave me much love towards them all. Some were convinced they had been mistaken: and who knoweth but God will soon return to the rest, and leave a blessing behind him?

On Saturday, 23d, I was enabled to speak strong words, both at Newgate, and at Mr. E.'s Society, and the next day at St. Anne's, and twice at St. John's, Clerkenwell; so that I fear they will bear me there no longer.

Tues. 26. I declared the Gospel of Peace to a small company at Windsor. The next evening Mr. H. preached to the Societies at Bow; but not "the truth as it is in Jesus." I was afraid lest "the lame should be turned out of the way;" but God answered the thoughts of my heart, and took away my fear, in a manner I did not expect, even by the words of Thomas Sternhold: they were these: (sung immediately after the sermon:)

Thy mercy is above all things,
O God, it doth excel;
In trust whereof, as in thy wings,
The sons of men shall dwell.

Within thy house they shall be fed
With plenty at their will;
Of all delights they shall be sped,
And take thereof their fill

Because the well of life most pure
Doth ever flow from thee;
And in thy light we are most sure
Eternal light to see.

From such as thee desire to know
 Let not thy grace depart;
 Thy righteousness declare and show
 To men of upright heart

Sat. 30. One who had been a zealous opposer of "this way," sent and desired to speak with me immediately. He had all the signs of settled despair, both in his countenance and behaviour. He said, "He had been enslaved to sin many years, especially to drunkenness; that he had long used all the means of grace, had constantly gone to church, and Sacrament, had read the Scripture, and used much private prayer, and yet was nothing profited." I desired we might join in prayer. After a short space, he rose, and his countenance was no longer sad. He said, "Now I know God loveth me, and has forgiven my sins; and sin shall not have dominion over me: for Christ hath set me free." And according to his faith it was unto him.

Sun. Oct. 1. I preached both morning and afternoon at St. George's in the East. On the following days I endeavoured to explain the way of salvation to many who had misunderstood what had been preached concerning it.

Fri. 6. I preached at St. Antholin's once more. In the afternoon I went to the Rev. Mr. Bedford, to tell him between me and him alone, of the injury he had done both to God and his brother, by preaching and printing that very weak sermon on assurance; which was an *ignoratio elenchi* from beginning to end: seeing the assurance we preach is of quite another kind from that he writes against. We speak of an assurance of our present pardon; not, as he does, of our final perseverance.

In the evening I began expounding at a little Society in Wapping. On Sunday, 8th, I preached at the Savoy Chapel, (I suppose the last time,) on the parable (or history rather) of the Pharisee and Publican praying in the temple. On Monday, 9th, I set out for Oxford. In walking I read the truly surprising narrative of the conversions lately wrought in and about the town of Northampton, in New England. Surely, "this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

An extract from this I wrote to a friend, concerning the state of those who are weak in faith. His answer, which I received at Bristol, on Saturday, 14th, threw me into

great perplexity; till, after crying to God, I took up a Bible, which opened on these words: "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh, that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast! And that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."

This, however, with a sentence in the evening lesson, put me upon considering my own state more deeply. And what then occurred to me was as follows:—

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith." Now the surest test whereby we can examine ourselves, whether we be indeed in the faith, is that given by St. Paul: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new."

First: His judgments are new: his judgment of himself, of happiness, of holiness.

He judges himself to be altogether fallen short of the glorious image of God; to have no good thing abiding in him, but all that is corrupt and abominable; in a word, to be wholly earthly, sensual, and devilish: a motley mixture of beast and devil.

Thus, by the Grace of God in Christ, I judge of myself; therefore, I am, in this respect, a new creature.

Again: His judgment concerning happiness is new. He would as soon expect to dig it out of the earth, as to find it in riches, honour, pleasure, (so called,) or indeed, in the enjoyment of any creature: he knows there can be no happiness on earth, but in the enjoyment of God, and in the foretaste of those "rivers of pleasure which flow at his right hand for evermore."

Thus, by the grace of God in Christ, I judge of happiness; therefore, I am, in this respect, a new creature.

Yet again: His judgment concerning holiness is new. He no longer judges it to be an outward thing; to consist either in doing no harm, in doing good, or in using the ordinances of God. He sees it is the life of God in the soul; the image of God fresh stamped on the heart; an entire renewal of the mind in every temper and thought, after the likeness of Him that created it.

Thus, by the grace of God in Christ, I judge of holiness; therefore, I am, in this respect, a new creature.

Secondly: His designs are new. It is the design of his

life, not to heap up treasures upon earth; not to gain the praise of men; not to indulge the desires of the flesh, the desire of the eye, or the pride of life; but to regain the image of God; to have the life of God again planted in his soul; and to be renewed after His likeness, in righteousness and all true holiness.

This, by the grace of God in Christ, is the design of my life; therefore, I am, in this respect, a new creature.

Thirdly: His desires are new, and indeed the whole train of his passions and inclinations. They are no longer fixed on earthly things; they are now set on the things of heaven. His love, and joy, and hope, his sorrow, and fear, have all respect to things above; they all point heavenward: where his treasure is, there is his heart also.

I dare not say, I am a new creature in this respect; for other desires often arise in my heart: but they do not reign. I put them all under my feet, through Christ, which strengthened me: therefore, I believe he is creating me anew in this also; and that he has begun, though not finished, his work.

Fourthly: His conversation is new. It is "always seasoned with salt, and fit to minister grace to the hearers."

So is mine, by the grace of God in Christ; therefore, in this respect, I am a new creature.

Fifthly: His actions are new: the tenor of his life singly points at the glory of God; all his substance and time are devoted thereto. "Whether he eats or drinks, or whatever he does," it either springs from, or leads to, the love of God and man.

Such, by the grace of God in Christ, is the tenor of my life; therefore, in this respect, I am a new creature.

But St. Paul tells us elsewhere, that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, peace, joy, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, temperance." Now although, by the grace of God in Christ, I find a measure of some of these in myself, viz. of peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, temperance; yet others I find not: I cannot find in myself the love of God or of Christ. Hence my deadness and wanderings in public prayer: hence it is, that even in the Holy Communion, I have frequently no more than a cold attention.

Again: I have not that joy in the Holy Ghost; no

settled lasting joy: nor have I such a peace as excludes the possibility either of fear or doubt. When holy men have told me, "I had no faith," I have often doubted whether I had or no; and those doubts have made me very uneasy, till I was relieved by prayer and the Holy Scriptures.

Yet, upon the whole, although I have not yet that joy in the Holy Ghost, nor the full assurance of faith, much less am I, in the full sense of the words, "in Christ a new creature;" I nevertheless trust that I have a measure of faith, and am "accepted in the beloved." I trust, "the handwriting that was against me is blotted out," and that I am reconciled to God through his Son.

Sun. 15. I preached twice at the Castle, and afterwards expounded at three Societies. Wednesday evening I came to London again, and on Friday met a Society (of soldiers chiefly) at Westminster. On Sunday, 22d, I preached at Bloomsbury, in the morning, and at Shadwell in the afternoon. Wednesday, 25th, I preached at Basingshaw Church; on Friday morning at St. Antholin's; on Sunday at Islington, and at London-Wall.

In the evening, being troubled at what some said, of "the kingdom of God within us," and doubtful of my own state, I called upon God, and received this answer from his Word: "He himself also waited for the kingdom of God." "But should not I wait in silence and retirement?" was the thought that immediately struck into my mind. I opened my Testament again, on those words: "Seest thou not, how faith wrought together with his works? And by works was faith made perfect."

Fri. Nov. 3. I preached at St. Antholin's; Sunday, 5th, in the morning, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, in the afternoon at Islington, and in the evening to such a congregation as I never saw before, at St. Clement's, in the Strand: as this was the first time of my preaching here, I suppose it is to be the last.

On Wednesday my brother and I went, at their earnest desire, to do the last good office to the condemned malefactors. It was the most glorious instance I ever saw, of faith triumphing over sin and death. One observing the tears run fast down the cheeks of one of them in particular, while his eyes were steadily fixed upwards, a few moments before he died, asked, "How do you feel your heart now?" He calmly replied, "I feel a peace,

which I could not have believed to be possible; and I know it is the peace of God, which passeth all understanding."

My brother took that occasion of declaring the Gospel of peace to a large assembly of publicans and sinners. O Lord God of my fathers, accept even me among them, and cast me not out from among thy children!

In the evening I proclaimed mercy to my fellow-sinners at Basingshaw Church; and the next morning at St. Antholin's. Friday, 10th, I set out, and Saturday, 11th, spent the evening with a little company at Oxford. I was grieved to find prudence had made them leave off singing psalms. I fear it will not stop here. God deliver me, and all that seek him in sincerity, from what the world calls Christian prudence!

Sun. 12. I preached twice at the Castle. In the following week, I began more narrowly to inquire what the doctrine of the Church of England is, concerning the much controverted point of justification by Faith; and the sum of what I found in the Homilies I extracted and printed for the use of others.

Sun. 19. I only preached in the afternoon at the Castle. On Monday night I was greatly troubled in dreams, and about eleven o'clock waked in an unaccountable consternation, without being able to sleep again. About that time, (as I found in the morning,) one who had been designed to be my pupil, but was not, came into the Porter's-lodge, (where several persons were sitting,) with a pistol in his hand. He presented this, as in sport, first at one and then at another: he then attempted twice or thrice to shoot himself, but it would not go off. Upon his laying it down, one took it up, and blew out the priming: he was very angry, went and got fresh prime, came in again, sat down, beat the flint with his key; and about twelve, pulling off his hat and wig, said, "He would die like a gentleman," and shot himself through the head.

Thur. 23. Returning from preaching at the Castle, I met once more with my old companion in affliction, C. D., who stayed with me till Monday. His last conversation with me was as follows:—

"In this you are better than you was at Savannah; you know that you was then quite wrong: but you are not right yet. You know that you was then blind; but you do not see now.

"I doubt not but God will bring you to the right foundation; but I have no hope for you, while you are on your present foundation: it is as different from the true, as the right hand from the left: you have all to begin anew.

"I have observed all your words and actions, and I see you are of the same spirit still. You have a simplicity; but it is a simplicity of your own: it is not the simplicity of Christ. You think you do not trust in your own works; but you do trust in your own works: you do not believe in Christ.

"You have a present freedom from sin; but it is only a temporary suspension of it, not a deliverance from it. And you have a peace; but it is not a true peace. If death were to approach, you would find all your fears return.

"But I am forbid to say any more: my heart sinks in me like a stone."

I was troubled. I begged of God an answer of peace, and opened on those words, "As many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." I was asking in the evening, that God would fulfil all his promises in my soul, when I opened my Testament on those words, "My hour is not yet come."

Sun. Dec. 3. I began reading prayers at Bocardo, (the city prison,) which had been long discontinued. In the afternoon I received a letter, earnestly desiring me to publish my account of Georgia; and another as earnestly dissuading me from it, "because it would bring much trouble upon me." I consulted God in his word, and received two answers: the first, Ezek. xxxiii. 2—6; the other, "Thou therefore endure hardship, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Tues. Dec. 5. I began reading prayers and preaching in Gloucester-Green workhouse, and on Thursday in that belonging to St. Thomas's parish. On both days I preached at the Castle. At St. Thomas's was a young woman, raving mad, screaming and tormenting herself continually. I had a strong desire to speak to her. The moment I began, she was still: the tears ran down her cheeks all the time I was telling her, "Jesus of Nazareth is able and willing to deliver you." O where is faith upon

earth? Why are these poor wretches left under the open bondage of Satan? Jesus, Master! Give thou medicine to heal their sickness; and deliver those who are now also vexed with unclean spirits!

About this time, being desirous to know how the work of God went on among our brethren at London, I wrote to many of them concerning the state of their souls: one or two of their answers I have subjoined.

“My dear friend, whom I love in the truth.

“I know my Saviour's voice, and my heart burns with love and desire to follow him in the regeneration. I have no confidence in the flesh: I loath myself and love him only. My dear brother, my spirit, even at this moment, rejoices in God my Saviour, and the love which is shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost, destroys all self-love, so that I could lay down my life for my brethren. I know that my Redeemer liveth, and have confidence towards God, that, through his blood, my sins are forgiven. He hath begotten me of his own will, and saves me from sin, so that it has no dominion over me. His Spirit bears witness with my spirit, that I am his child by adoption and grace. And this is not for works of righteousness which I have done; for I am his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works; so that all boasting is excluded. It is now about eighteen years since Jesus took possession of my heart. He then opened my eyes, and said unto me, ‘Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee.’ My dear friend, bear with my relating, after what manner I was born of God. It was an instantaneous act. My whole heart was filled with a divine power, drawing all the faculties of my soul after Christ, which continued three or four nights and days. It was a mighty rushing wind, coming into the soul, enabling me from that moment to be more than conqueror over those corruptions which before I was always a slave to. Since that time, the whole bent of my will hath been towards him day and night, even in my dreams. I know that I dwell in Christ, and Christ in me; I am bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh. That you and all that wait for his appearing, may find the consolation of Israel, is the earnest prayer of

“Your affectionate brother in Christ,

“W. F.”

"My most dear and honoured father in Christ,

"In the twentieth year of my age, 1737, God was pleased to open my eyes, and to let me see that I did not live as became a child of God. I found my sins were great, (though I was what they call a sober person,) and that God kept an account of them all. However I thought, if I repented, and led a good life, God would accept me. And so I went on for about half a year, and had sometimes great joy. But last winter, I began to find, that whatever I did, was nothing, and the enemy of souls laid so many things to my charge, that sometimes I despaired of heaven. I continued in great doubts and fears till April 9th, when I went out of town. Here for a time I was greatly transported, in seeing the glorious works of God: but in about three weeks I was violently assaulted again. God then offered a Saviour to me, but my self-righteousness kept me from laying hold on him.

"On Whitsunday I went to receive the blessed Sacrament, but with a heart as hard as a stone: heavy laden I was indeed, when God was pleased to let me see a crucified Saviour. I saw there was a fountain opened in his side for me to wash in and be clean. But alas! I was afraid to venture, fearing I should be too presumptuous; and I know, I, at that time, refused the atonement which I might then have had: yet I received great comfort. But in about nine days' time, my joy went out, as a lamp does for want of oil, and I fell into my old state. Yet I was not without hope; for ever after that time I could not despair of salvation: I had so clear a sight of the fountain opened in the side of our Lord. But still when I thought of death, or the day of judgment, it was a great terror to me. And yet I was afraid to venture to lay all my sins upon Christ.

"This was not all. But whenever I retired to prayer, I had a violent pain in my head. This only seized me when I began to pray earnestly, or to cry out aloud to Christ: but when I cried to him against this also, he gave me ease. Well, I found God did love me, and did draw me to Christ. I hungered and thirsted after him; but was still afraid to go boldly to Christ, and to claim him as my Saviour.

"July 3. My dear sister came down to see me. She had received the atonement on St. Peter's day. I told

her, I thought Christ died for me, but as to the assurance she mentioned, I could say nothing.

"July 5. She went. That night I went into the garden, and considering what she had told me, I saw him by faith, whose eyes are as a flame of fire, him who justifieth the ungodly. I told him I was ungodly, and it was for me that he died. His blood did I plead with great faith, to blot out the handwriting that was against me. I told my Saviour, that he had promised to give rest to all that were heavy laden. This promise I claimed, and I saw him by faith, stand condemned before God in my stead. I saw the fountain opened in his side. I found, as I hungered, he fed me; as my soul thirsted, he gave me out of that fountain to drink: and so strong was my faith, that if I had had all the sins of the world laid upon me, I knew and was sure one drop of his blood was sufficient to atone for all. Well, I clave unto him, and he did wash me in his blood. He hath presented me to his Father and my Father, to his God and my God, a pure, spotless virgin, as if I had never committed any sin. It is on Jesus I stand, the Saviour of sinners: it is he that hath loved me, and given himself for me. I cleave unto him, as my surety, and he is bound to pay God the debt: while I stand on this rock, I am sure the gates of hell cannot prevail against me. It is by faith that I am justified, and have peace with God through him: his blood has made reconciliation to God for me. It is by faith I have received the atonement. It is by faith I have the Son of God and the Spirit of Christ dwelling in me. And what then shall separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord?

"You must think what a transport of joy I was then in, when I that was lost and undone, dropping into hell, felt a Redeemer come, who is 'mighty to save, to save unto the uttermost.' Yet I did not receive the witness of the Spirit at that time. But in about half an hour, the Devil came with great power to tempt me. However, I minded him not, but went in and lay down pretty much composed in my mind. Now St. Paul says, 'after ye believed, ye were sealed with the spirit of promise.' So it was with me. After I had believed on him that justifieth the ungodly, I received the seal of the Spirit, which is the 'earnest of our inheritance.'

"July 6. In the morning, being by myself, I found the

work of the Spirit was very powerful upon me : (although you know God does not deal with every soul in the same way.) As my mother bore me with great pain, so did I feel great pain in my soul in being born of God. Indeed I thought the pains of death were upon me, and that my soul was then taking leave of the body. I thought I was going to him whom I saw with strong faith standing ready to receive me. In this violent agony I continued about four hours ; and then I began to feel the 'spirit of God bearing witness with my spirit, that I was born of God.' Because I was a child of God, he 'sent forth the spirit of his Son into me, crying abba, Father.' For that is the cry of every new-born soul. O mighty, powerful, happy change ! I who had nothing but devils ready to drag me to hell, now found I had angels to guard me to my reconciled Father ; and my Judge, who just before stood ready to condemn me, was now become my righteousness. But I cannot express what God hath done for my soul. No ; this is to be my everlasting employment when I have put off this frail, sinful body, when I join with that great multitude which no man can number, in singing praises to the Lamb that loved us, and gave himself for us ! O how powerful are the workings of the Almighty in a new-born soul ! The love of God was shed abroad in my heart, and a flame kindled there, so that my body was almost torn asunder. I loved. The Spirit cried strong in my heart. I trembled : I sung : I joined my voice with those that excel in strength. My soul was got up into the holy mount. I had no thoughts of coming down again into the body. I who not long before had called to the rocks to fall on me, and the mountains to cover me, could now call for nothing else but, "come Lord Jesus, come quickly." Then I could cry out with great boldness, there, O God, is my surety ! There, O death, is thy plague ! There, O grave, is thy destruction ! There, O serpent, is the seed, that shall for ever bruise thy head. O I thought my head was a fountain of water ! I was dissolved in love. 'My beloved is mine, and I am his.' He has all charms. He has ravished my heart. He is my comforter, my friend, my all. He is now in his garden, feeding among the lilies. 'O I am sick of love.' He is altogether lovely, 'the chiefest among ten thousand.'

168 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Sun. 10. I administered the Lord's Supper at the Castle. At one I expounded at Mr. Fox's, as usual. The great power of God was with us, and one who had been in despair several years, received a witness that she was a child of God.

Mon. 11. Hearing Mr. Whitefield was arrived from Georgia, I hastened to London; and on Tuesday, 12th, God gave us once more to take sweet counsel together.

Fri. 15. I preached at St. Antholin's.

Sat. 16. One who had examined himself by the reflections wrote Oct. 14, made the following observations on the state of his own soul.

1. I judge thus of myself; but I feel it not: therefore there is in me still, the old heart of stone.

2. I judge thus of happiness; but I still hanker after creature-happiness. My soul is almost continually running out after one creature or another, and imagining how happy should I be in such or such a condition. I have more pleasure in eating and drinking, and in the company of those I love than I have in God. I have a relish for earthly happiness. I have not a relish for heavenly. "I savour (*φρονω*) the things of men, not the things of God." Therefore there is in me still the carnal heart, the *φρόνημα σαρκός*.

But the eyes of my understanding are not yet fully opened.

II. "This is the design of my life." But a thousand little designs are daily stealing into my soul. This is my ultimate design; but intermediate designs are continually creeping in upon me; designs (though often disguised) of pleasing myself, of doing my own will; designs, wherein I do not eye God, at least not him singly.

Therefore my eye is not yet single; at least not always so.

III. Are my desires new? Not all. Some are new, some old. My desires are like my designs. My great desire is, to have "Christ formed in my heart by faith." But little desires are daily stealing into my soul. And so my great hopes and fears have respect to God. But a thousand little ones creep in between them.

Again, my desires, passions and inclinations in general are mixed; having something of Christ and something of earth. I love you, for instance. But my love is only partly spiritual, and partly natural. Something of my

own cleaves to that which is of God. Nor can I divide the earthly part from the heavenly.

Sun. 17. I preached in the afternoon at Islington; in the evening at St. Swithin's, for the last time. Sunday, 24th, I preached at Great St. Bartholomew's in the morning, and at Islington in the afternoon; where we had the blessed Sacrament every day this week, and were comforted on every side.

Wed. 27. I preached at Basingshaw church; Sunday, 31st, to many thousands, in St. George's, Spitalfields. And to a yet more crowded congregation at Whitechapel, in the afternoon, I declared those glad tidings, (O that they would know the things which make for their peace!) "I will heal their backslidings; I will love them freely."

Mon. Jan. 1, 1739. Mr. Hall, Kinchin, Ingham, Whitefield, Hutchins, and my brother Charles, were present at our love-feast in Fetter-lane, with about sixty of our brethren. About three in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from that awe and amazement at the presence of his Majesty, we broke out with one voice, "We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord."

Thur. 4. One who had had the form of godliness many years, wrote the following reflections:—

"My friends affirm I am mad, because I said I was not a Christian a year ago. I affirm, I am not a Christian now. Indeed what I might have been I know not, had I been faithful to the grace then given, when expecting nothing less, I received such a sense of the forgiveness of my sins, as till then I never knew. But that I am not a Christian at this day, I as assuredly know, as that Jesus is the Christ.

"For a Christian is one who has the fruits of the Spirit of Christ, which (to mention no more) are, love, peace, joy. But these I have not. I have not any love of God. I do not love either the Father or the Son. Do you ask, How do I know whether I love God? I answer by another question: How do you know, whether you love me? Why, as you know, whether you are hot or cold. You *feel* this moment, that you do or do not love me.

And I *feel* this moment, I do not love God; which therefore I *know*, because I *feel* it. There is no word more proper, more clear, or more strong.

"And I know it also by St. John's plain rule: 'If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.' For I love the world. I desire the things of the world, some or other of them, and have done all my life. I have always placed some part of my happiness in some or other of the things that are seen, particularly in meat and drink, and in the company of those I loved. For many years I have been, yea, and still am, hankering after a happiness, in loving, and being loved by one or another. And in these I have from time to time taken more pleasure than in God.

"Again, joy in the Holy Ghost I have not. I have now and then some starts of joy in God; but it is not that joy; for it is not abiding: neither is it greater than I have had on some worldly occasions. So that I can in no wise be said to 'rejoice evermore;' much less to 'rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.'

"Yet again; I have not 'the peace of God;' *that* peace, peculiarly so called. The peace I have may be accounted for on natural principles. I have health, strength, friends, a competent fortune, and a composed, cheerful temper. Who would not have a sort of peace in such circumstances? But I have none which can with any propriety be called, a peace which passeth all understanding.

"From hence I conclude, (and let all the *saints of the world* hear, that whereinsoever they boast, they may be found even as I,) though I have given, and do give all my goods to feed the poor, I am not a Christian. Though I have endured hardship, though I have in all things denied myself, and taken up my cross, I am not a Christian. My works are nothing, my sufferings are nothing; I have not the fruits of the Spirit of Christ. Though I have constantly used all the means of grace, for twenty years, I am not a Christian."

Wed. 17. I was with two persons, who I doubt are properly enthusiasts. For, first, they think to attain the end without the means; which is enthusiasm, properly so called. Again, they think themselves inspired by God, and are not. But false, imaginary inspiration is enthusi-

asm. That theirs is only imaginary inspiration appears hence, it contradicts the law, and the testimony.

Sun. 21. We were surprised in the evening, while I was expounding in the Minories. A well-dressed, middle-aged woman, suddenly cried out, as in the agonies of death. She continued so to do for some time, with all the signs of the sharpest anguish of spirit. When she was a little recovered, I desired her to call upon me the next day. She then told me, that about three years before, she was under strong convictions of sin, and in such terror of mind, that she had no comfort in any thing, nor any rest, day or night; that she sent for the Minister of her parish, and told him the distress she was in; upon which he told her husband she was stark mad, and advised him to send for a physician immediately. A physician was sent for accordingly, who ordered her to be blooded, blistered, and so on. But this did not heal her wounded spirit. So that she continued much as she was before; till the last night, He whose word she at first found to be "sharper than any two-edged sword," gave her a faint hope, that he would undertake her cause, and heal the soul which had sinned against him.

Thur. 25. I baptized John Smith, (late an Anabaptist,) and four other adults, at Islington. Of the adults I have known baptized lately, one only was at that time born again, in the full sense of the word; that is, found a thorough, inward change, by the love of God filling her heart. Most of them were only born again in a lower sense, *i.e.* received the remission of their sins; and some, (as it has since too plainly appeared,) neither in one sense nor the other.

Sun. 28. I went, (having been long importuned thereto,) about five in the evening, with four or five of my friends, to a house where was one of those commonly called French prophets. After a time, she came in. She seemed about four or five and twenty, of an agreeable speech and behaviour. She asked, Why we came? I said, "To try the spirits, whether they be of God." Presently after she leaned back in her chair, and seemed to have strong workings in her breast, with deep sighings intermixed. Her head, and hands, and, by turns, every part of her body, seemed also to be in a kind of convulsive motion. This continued about ten minutes, till (at six) she began to speak (though the workings, sighings and contortions

of her body, were so intermixed with her words, that she seldom spoke half a sentence together) with a clear, strong voice, "Father, thy will, thy will be done. Thus saith the Lord, If any of you that is a father, his child ask bread, will he give him a stone? - If he ask a fish, will he give him a scorpion? Ask bread of me, my children, and I will give you bread. I will not, will not give you a scorpion. By this judge of what ye shall now hear."

She spoke much (all as in the person of God, and mostly in scripture words) of the fulfilling of the prophecies, the coming of Christ now at hand, and the spreading of the Gospel over all the earth. Then she exhorted us, not to be in haste, in judging her spirit to be or not to be of God; but to wait upon God, and he would teach us, if we conferred not with flesh and blood. She added, with many enforcements, that we must watch and pray, and take up our cross, and be still before God.

Two or three of our company were much affected, and believed she spoke by the Spirit of God. But this was in no wise clear to me. The motion might be either hysterical or artificial. And the same words, any person of a good understanding and well versed in the scriptures might have spoken. But I let the matter alone; knowing this, that "if it be not of God, it will come to nought."

Sun. Feb. 4. I preached at St. Giles's, on "Whosoever believeth on me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." How was the power of God present with us! I am content to preach here no more.

Fri. 9. A note was given me at Wapping, in (nearly) these words :—

"SIR,

"Your prayers are desired for a child that is lunatic, and sore vexed day and night, that our Lord would be pleased to heal him, as he did those in the days of his flesh, and that he would give his parents faith and patience till his time is come."

Tues. 13. I received the following note :—

"SIR,

"I return you hearty thanks for your prayers on Friday for my tortured son. He grows worse and worse; I hope, the nearer deliverance: I beg your prayers still to

our Redeemer, who will cure him, or give us patience to bear the rod, hoping it is dipped in the blood of the Lamb.

"Sir, he is taken with grievous weeping, his heart beating, as if it would beat through his ribs, he swells ready to burst, sweats great drops, runs about beating and tearing himself. He bites and pinches me, so that I carry his marks always on me. He lays his hands on the fire, and sticks pins in his flesh. Thus he has been these five years. He is in his eleventh year, a wonder of affliction: I hope, of mercy also, and that I shall yet praise Him, who is my Redeemer and my God."

Sat. 17. A few of us prayed with him, and from that time (as his parents since informed us) he had more rest (although not a full deliverance) than he had had for two years before.

Sun. 18. I was desired to preach at Sir George Wheler's Chapel, in Spitalfields, morning and afternoon. I did so in the morning, but was not suffered to conclude my subject (as I had designed) in the afternoon: a good remembrance, that I should, if possible, declare at *every* time, the *whole* counsel of God.

Sun. 25. I preached in the morning to a numerous congregation, at St. Katherine's, near the Tower; at Islington in the afternoon. Many here were (as usual) deeply offended. But the counsel of the Lord it shall stand.

Fri. March 2. It was the advice of all our brethren, that I should spend a few days at Oxford, whither I accordingly went on Saturday, the third. A few names I found here also, who had not denied the faith, neither been ashamed of their Lord, even in the midst of a perverse generation. And every day we were together, we had convincing proof, such as it had not before entered into our hearts to conceive, that "he is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God through him."

One of the most surprising instances of his power which I ever remember to have seen, was on the Tuesday following; when I visited one who was above measure enraged at this new way, and zealous in opposing it. Finding argument to be of no other effect, than to inflame her more and more, I broke off the dispute, and desired we might join in prayer; which she so far consented to,

as to kneel down. In a few minutes she fell into an extreme agony, both of body and soul; and soon after cried out with the utmost earnestness, "Now I know, I am forgiven for Christ's sake." Many other words she uttered to the same effect, witnessing a hope full of immortality. And from that hour, God hath set her face as a flint to declare the faith which before she persecuted.

Thur. 8. I called upon her and a few of her neighbours, who were met together in the evening, among whom I found a gentleman of the same spirit she had been of, earnestly labouring to pervert the truth of the Gospel. To prevent his going on, as the less evil of the two, I entered directly into the controversy, touching both the cause and the fruits of justification. In the midst of the dispute, one who sat at a small distance, felt, as it were, the piercing of a sword, and before she could be brought to another house, whither I was going, could not avoid crying out aloud, even in the street. But no sooner had we made our request known to God, than he sent her help from his holy place.

At my return from hence, I found Mr. Kinchin, just come from Dummer, who earnestly desired me, instead of setting out for London the next morning, (as I designed,) to go to Dummer and supply his church on Sunday. On Friday morning I set out, according to his desire, and in the evening came to Reading, where I found a young man¹ who had in some measure "known the power of the world to come." I spent the evening with him and a few of his serious friends; and it pleased God much to strengthen and comfort them.

Sat. 10. In the afternoon I came to Dummer; and on Sunday morning had a large and attentive congregation. I was desired to expound in the evening at Basingstoke. The next day I returned to Reading, and thence on Tuesday to Oxford, where I found many more and more rejoicing in God their Saviour. Wednesday, the 14th, I had an opportunity of preaching once again to the poor prisoners in the Castle. Thursday, the 15th, I set out early in the morning, and in the afternoon came to London.

During my stay here, I was fully employed, between our own Society in Fetter-lane, and many others, where I was continually desired to expound; so that I had no

¹Mr. Cennick.

thought of leaving London, when I received (after several others) a letter from Mr. Whitefield, and another from Mr. Seward, entreating me, in the most pressing manner, to come to Bristol without delay. This I was not at all forward to do; and perhaps a little the less inclined to it, (though I trust I do not count my life dear unto myself, so I may finish my course with joy,) because of the remarkable scriptures which offered as often as we inquired, touching the consequence of this removal; probably permitted for the trial of our faith. "Get¹ thee up into this mountain,—and die in the Mount, whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people." "And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days."² "I will shew him, how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."³ "And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him."⁴

Wed. 28. My journey was proposed to our Society in Fetter-lane. But my brother Charles would scarce bear the mention of it; till appealing to the oracles of God, he received those words as spoken to himself, and answered not again: "Son of man, behold I take from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet shalt thou not mourn or weep, neither shall thy tears run down." Our other brethren, however, continuing the dispute, without any probability of their coming to one conclusion, we at length all agreed to decide it by lot. And by this it was determined, I should go. Several afterwards desiring we might open the Bible concerning the issue of this, we did so on the several portions of scripture, which I shall set down without any reflection upon them. "Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker."⁵ "When wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hands, and take you away from the earth?"⁶ "And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem."⁷

Perhaps it may be a satisfaction to some, if, before I enter upon this new period of my life, I give the reasons why I preferred for so many years an University life

¹ Deut. xxxii. 49, 50.

² C. xxxiv. 8.

³ Acts ix. 16.

⁴ C. viii. 2.

⁵ Sam. iii. 1.

⁶ 2 Sam. iv. 11.

⁷ 2 Chron. xxix. 30.

before any other; then especially, when I was earnestly pressed by my father to accept of a cure of souls. I have here, therefore, subjoined the letter I wrote several years ago on that occasion:—

DEAR SIR,

Oxon, Dec. 10, 1734.

1. The authority of a parent, and the call of Providence, are things of so sacred a nature, that a question, in which these are any way concerned, deserves the most serious consideration. I am, therefore, greatly obliged to you for the pains you have taken to set our question in a clear light; which I now intend to consider more at large with the utmost attention of which I am capable. And I shall the more cheerfully do it, as being assured of you joining with me in imploring His guidance, who will not suffer those that trust in Him, to seek death in the error of their life.

2. I entirely agree, "That the glory of God, and the different degrees of promoting it, are to be our sole consideration and direction in the choice of any course of life;" and, consequently, that it must wholly turn upon this single point, which I ought to prefer, a college life or that of Rector of a parish? I do not say, the glory of God is to be my first or my principal consideration, but my only one; since all that are not implied in this, are absolutely of no weight. In presence of this they all vanish away; they are less than the small dust of the balance.

3. And indeed, till all other considerations were set aside, I could never come to any clear determination: till my eye was single, my whole mind was full of darkness: whereas, so long as it is fixed on the glory of God, without any other consideration, I have no more doubt of the way wherein I should go, than of the shining of the mid-day sun.

4. Now that life tends most to the glory of God, wherein we most promote holiness in ourselves and others; as being fully persuaded that these can never be put asunder; and, if not, then whatever state is best on either of these accounts, is so on the other likewise. If it be in the whole best for others, so it is for ourselves: if it be best for ourselves, it is so for them.

5. However, when two ways of life are proposed, I would choose to consider first, which have I reason to

believe will be best for my own soul; will most forward me in holiness? By holiness meaning, not fasting, (as you seem to suppose,) or bodily austerities, but the mind that was in Christ; a renewal of soul in the image of God. And I believe the state wherein I am, will most forward me in this, because of the peculiar advantages I now enjoy.

6. The first of these is daily converse with my friends. I know no other place under heaven, where I can have some always at hand of the same judgment, and engaged in the same studies; persons who are awakened into a full conviction, that they have but one work to do upon earth; who see at a distance what that one work is, even the recovery of a single eye and a clean heart; who, in order to this, have, according to their power, absolutely devoted themselves to God, and follow after their Lord, denying themselves and taking up their cross daily. To have even a small number of such friends, constantly watching over my soul, and administering, as need is, reproof or advice with all plainness and gentleness, is a blessing I know not where to find in any other part of the kingdom.

7. Another blessing which I enjoy here, in a greater degree than I could expect elsewhere, is retirement. I have not only as much, but as little company as I please. Trifling visitants I have none. No one takes it into his head to come within my doors, unless I desire him, or he has business with me; and even then, as soon as his business is done, he immediately goes away.

8. Both these blessings are greatly endeared to me when I spend but one week out of this place. The far greatest part of the conversation I meet with abroad, even with the better sort of men, turns on points that are quite wide of my purpose; that no way forward the end of my life. Now, if they have time to spare, I have not: it is absolutely needful for such a one as me to follow with all possible care and vigilance that wise advice of Mr. Herbert:—

"Still let thy mind be bent, still plotting how
And when, and where, the business may be done."

And this, I bless God, I can in some measure do, while I avoid that bane of all religion, the company of good sort of men, as they are called; persons who have a liking to, but no sense of, religion. But these insensibly

178 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

undermine all my resolution, and steal away what little zeal I have; so that I never come from among those saints of the world, (as John Valdesso terms them,) faint, dissipated, and shorn of all my strength, but I say, "God deliver me from a half Christian."

9. Freedom from care is yet another invaluable blessing; and where could I enjoy this as I do now? I hear of such a thing as the cares of the world, but I feel them not. My income is ready for me on so many stated days; all I have to do is to carry it home. The grand article of my expense is food; and this too is provided without any care of mine. The servants I employ are always ready at quarter-day, so I have no trouble on their account; and what I occasionally need to buy, I can immediately have, without any expense of thought. Here, therefore, I can be "without carefulness." I can "attend upon the Lord without distraction." And I know what a help this is to the being "holy both in body and in spirit."

10. To quicken me in making a diligent and thankful use of these peculiar advantages, I have the opportunity of communicating weekly, and of public prayer twice a day. It would be easy to mention many more, as well as to show many disadvantages, which one of greater courage and skill than me, could scarce separate from the way of life you speak of. But whatever others could do, I could not. I could not stand my ground one month, against intemperance in sleep, self-indulgence in food, irregularity in study; against a general lukewarmness in my affections, and remissness in my actions; against a softness directly opposite to the character of a good soldier of Jesus Christ. And then, when my spirit was thus dissolved, I should be an easy prey to every temptation: then might the cares of the world and the desire of other things, roll back with a full tide upon me; and it would be no wonder, if, while I preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. I cannot, therefore, but observe, that the question does not relate barely to the degrees of holiness, but to the very being of it:

* Agitur de vitâ et sanguine Turni :

The point is, whether I shall or not work out my salvation? Whether I shall serve Christ or Belial?

11. What still heightens my fear of this untried state,

is, that when I am once entered into it, I am entered irrecoverably, once for all:

Vestigia nulla Retrorsum.

If I should ever be weary of the way of life I am now in, I have frequent opportunities of quitting it; but whatever difficulties occur in that, foreseen or unforeseen, there is no return, any more than from the grave. When I have once launched out into the unknown sea, there is no recovering my harbour; I must go on, through whatever whirlpools, or rocks, or sands, though all the waves and storms go over me.

12. Thus much as to myself: but I can not deny, "That we are not to consider ourselves alone; seeing God made us all for a social life, to which academical studies are only preparatory." I allow too, "That he will take an exact account of every talent which he has lent us, not to bury them, but to employ every mite we have received according to His will, whose stewards we are." I own also, "That every follower of Christ is, in his proportion, the light of the world; that whosoever is such, can no more be concealed than the sun in the midst of heaven; that if he is set as a light in a dark place, his shining must be the more conspicuous; that to this very end was his light given, even to shine on all around him;" and, indeed, that "there is only one way to hide it, which is, to put it out." I am obliged, likewise, unless I will lie against the truth, to grant, "That there is not a more contemptible animal upon earth, than one that drones away life, without ever labouring to promote either the glory of God or the good of man; and that, whether he be young or old, learned or unlearned, in a college or out of it;" yet granting, "The superlative degree of contempt to be on all accounts due to a college-drone:" a wretch who has received ten talents, and employs none; that is not only promised a reward hereafter, but is also paid beforehand for his work, and yet works not at all. But allowing all this, and whatever else you can say (for I own, you can never say enough) against the drowsy ingratitude, the lazy perjury of those, who are commonly called harmless men, a fair proportion of whom I must, to our shame, confess, are to be found in colleges; allowing this, I say, I do not apprehend it concludes against a college life in general; for the abuse of it does not

destroy the use. Though there are some here who are the mere lumber of the creation, it does not follow that others may not be of more service to the world in this station than they could be in any other.

13. That I, in particular, could, might (it seems) be inferred from what has been shown already, viz. that I may myself be holier here than any where else, if I faithfully use the blessings I enjoy. But to waive this, I have other reasons so to judge; and the first is the plenteousness of the harvest. Here is, indeed, a large scene of various action: here is room for charity in all its forms; there is scarce any possible way of doing good, for which here is not daily occasion. I can now only touch on the several heads: here are poor families to be relieved; here are children to be educated; here are workhouses, wherein both young and old gladly receive the word of exhortation; here are prisons, and therein a complication of all human wants; and, lastly, here are the schools of the prophets. Of these, in particular, we must observe, that he who gains one, does thereby do as much service to the world as he could do in a parish in his whole life; for his name is legion: in him are contained all those who shall be converted to God by him; he is not a single drop of the dew of heaven, but a river to make glad the city of God.

14. "But Epworth, you say, is a larger sphere of action than this; there I should have the care of two thousand souls." Two thousand souls! I see not how it is possible for such an one as me to take care of one hundred. Because the weight that is now upon me is almost more than I can bear, shall I increase it tenfold?

——— imponere Pelia Ossam
 Scilicet, atque Ossæ frondosum involvere Olympum!

Would this be the way to help either myself or others up to heaven? Nay: the mountains I reared would only crush my soul, and so make me utterly useless to others.

15. I need but just glance on several other reasons, why I am more likely to be useful here than elsewhere; as, because I have the advice of many friends in any difficulty, and their encouragement in any danger; because we have the eyes of multitudes upon us, who even without designing it, perform the most substantial office of friendship; apprizing us if we have already done any thing wrong, and guarding us against doing so again; lastly,

because we have a constant fund to supply the bodily wants of the poor, and thereby open a way for their souls to receive instruction.

16. If you say, "The love of the people of Epworth to me, may balance these advantages;" I ask how long will it last? Only till I come to tell them plainly, that their deeds are evil; and particularly to apply that general sentence, to say to each, "Thou art the man!" Alas, Sir, do not I know what love they had to you at once? and how many of them used you since? Why, just as every one will be used whose business it is to bring light to them that love darkness.

17. Notwithstanding, therefore, their present prejudice in my favour, I cannot see that I am likely to do that good either at Epworth or any other place which I may hope to do in Oxford; and yet one terrible objection lies in the way: "Have you found it so in fact? What have you done there in fourteen years? Have not your very attempts to do good there, for want either of a particular turn of mind for the business you engaged in, or of prudence to direct you in the right method of doing it, been always unsuccessful? Nay, and brought such contempt upon you as has in some measure disqualified you for any future success? And are there not men in Oxford, who are not only better and holier than you, but who, having preserved their reputation, and being universally esteemed, are every way fitter to promote the glory of God in that place?"

18. I am not careful to answer in this matter. It is not my part to say, whether God hath done good by my hands, whether I have a particular turn of mind for this or not; and whether want of success (where our attempts did not succeed) was owing to imprudence, or to other causes. But the latter part of the objection, "That one who is despised can do no good, that without reputation a man cannot be useful," being the strong hold of all the unbelieving, the vain-glorious, the cowardly Christians, (so called.) I will, by the grace of God, see what reason there is for this, thus continually to exalt itself against the Gospel of Christ.

19. With regard to contempt then, (under which word I include all the passions that border upon it, as hate, envy, &c., and all the fruits that spring from it, such as calumny and persecution in all its forms,) my first position

in defiance of worldly wisdom is, Every true Christian is contemned, wherever he lives, by those who are not so, and who know him to be such; that is, in effect, by all with whom he converses, since it is impossible for light not to shine. This position I prove, both from the example of our Lord, and his express assertion. First, from his example: "If the disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his Lord," then as our master was "despised and rejected of men," so will every one of his true disciples. But "the disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his Lord." Therefore, the consequence will not fail him an hair's breadth. I prove this, secondly, from his own express assertion of this consequence: "If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household? Remember [ye that would fain forget or evade this] the word which I said unto you, the servant is not greater than the Lord; if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you." And as for that vain hope, that this belongs only to the first followers of Christ, hear ye him: "All these things they will do unto you, because they know not him that sent me." And again, "Because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you." Both the persons who are hated, the persons who hate them, and the cause of their hating them, are set down. The hated are all that are not of the world, that know and love God: the haters are all that are of the world, that know not, love not God. The cause of their hatred is, the entire, irreconcilable difference between their designs, judgments, and affections: because these know not God, and those are determined to know and pursue nothing beside him. These esteem and love the world; and those count it dung and dross, and singly desire the love of Christ.

20. My next position is this: Till he is thus despised, no man is in a state of salvation. And this is a plain consequence of the former; for if all that are "not of the world" are therefore despised by those that are; then till a man is despised he is "of the world," that is, out of a state of salvation. Nor is it possible for all the trimmers between God and the world, to elude the consequence, unless they can prove, that a man may be "of the world," and yet be in a state of salvation. I must, therefore, with or without the consent of these, keep close

to my Saviour's judgment, and maintain, that contempt is a part of the cross, which every man bears who follows him; that it is the badge of his discipleship, the stamp of his profession, the constant seal of his calling; insomuch that though a man may be despised without being saved, yet he cannot be saved without being despised.

21. I should not spend any more words on this great truth, but that it is at present voted out of the world. The masters in Israel, learned men, men of renown, seem absolutely to have forgotten it; nay, and censure those who have not forgotten the words of their Lord, as "setters forth of strange doctrine." Yet they who hearken to God rather than man, must lay down one strange position more, that the being despised is absolutely necessary to our doing good in the world; if not to our doing some good, (for God may work by Judas,) yet to our doing so much good as we otherwise might; seeing we must know God, if we would fully teach others to know him. But if we do, we must be despised of them that know him not. "Where then is the scribe? Where is the wise? Where is the disputer of this world?" Where is the replier against God, with his sage maxims, "He that is despised can do no good in the world? To be useful, a man must be esteemed; to advance the glory of God, you must have a fair reputation."—Saith the world so? Well; what saith the Scripture? Why, that God "hath laughed" all this Heathen wisdom "to scorn." It saith that twelve despised followers of a despised Master, all of whom were of no reputation, who were esteemed—"as the filth and offscouring of the world," did more good in it, than all the twelve tribes of Israel. It saith, that their despised Master left an express declaration "to us and to our children, Blessed are ye [not accursed with the heavy curse of doing no good, of being useless in the world] when men shall revile you and persecute you, and say all manner of evil of you falsely for my name's sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven."

22. These are a part of my reasons for choosing to abide as yet in the station wherein I now am. As to the flock committed to your care, whom you have many years fed with the sincere milk of the word, I trust in God, your labour shall not be in vain. Some of them you have seen gathered into the garner. And for yourself, I doubt

not, when "your warfare is accomplished," when you are "made perfect through sufferings," you shall follow the children whom God hath given you, full of years and victories. And he that took care of those poor sheep before you was born, will not forget them when you are dead.

Thur. March 29. I left London, and in the evening expounded to a small company at Basingstoke. Saturday, 31st, in the evening I reached Bristol, and met Mr. Whitefield there. I could scarce reconcile myself at first to this strange way of preaching in the fields, of which he set me an example on Sunday; having been all my life (till very lately) so tenacious of every point relating to decency and order, that I should have thought the saving of souls almost a sin, if it had not been done in a church.

April 1. In the evening (Mr. Whitefield being gone) I begun expounding our Lord's Sermon on the Mount (one pretty remarkable precedent of field-preaching, though I suppose there were churches at that time also) to a little Society which was accustomed to meet once or twice a week in Nicholas-Street.

Mon. 2. At four in the afternoon, I submitted to be more vile, and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation, speaking from a little eminence in a ground adjoining to the city to about three thousand people. The scripture on which I spoke was this: (is it possible any one should be ignorant, that it is fulfilled in every true Minister of Christ?) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted; to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

At seven I began expounding the Acts of the Apostles to a Society meeting in Baldwin-Street; and the next day, the Gospel of St. John in the Chapel at Newgate; where I also daily read the morning service of the Church.

Wed. 4. At Baptist-Mills, (a sort of a suburb or village about half a mile from Bristol,) I offered the grace of God to about fifteen hundred persons from these words, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely."

In the evening three women agreed to meet together weekly, with the same intention as those at London, viz.

"To confess their faults one to another, and pray one for another, that they may be healed." At eight, four young men agreed to meet, in pursuance of the same design. How dare any man deny this to be (as to the substance of it) a means of grace, ordained by God, unless he will affirm, (with Luther in the fury of his solifidianism,) that St. James's Epistle is an epistle of straw?

Thur. 5. At five in the evening I began, at a Society in Castle-Street, expounding the Epistle to the Romans; and the next evening, at a Society in Gloucester-Lane, the First Epistle of St. John. On Saturday evening, at Weaver's-Hall also, I began expounding the Epistle to the Romans, and declared that Gospel to all, which is the "power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth."

Sun. 8. At seven in the morning I preached to about a thousand persons at Bristol, and afterwards to about fifteen hundred, on the top of Hannam-Mount in Kingswood. I called to them in the words of the Evangelical Prophet, "Ho! every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters; come and buy wine and milk, without money, and without price." About five thousand were in the afternoon at Rose-Green, (on the other side of Kingswood,) among whom I stood and cried, in the name of the Lord, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Tues. 10. I was desired to go to Bath; where I offered to about a thousand souls, the free grace of God to "heal their backslidings," and in the morning to (I believe) more than two thousand. I preached to about the same number at Baptist-Mills, in the afternoon, on "Christ, made of God unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

Sat. 14. I preached at the poor-house: three or four hundred were within, and more than twice that number were without; to whom I explained those comfortable words, "When they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both."

Sun. 15. I explained at seven to five or six thousand persons, the story of the Pharisee and the Publican. About three thousand were present at Hannam-Mount. I preached at Newgate after dinner to a crowded congre-

gation. Between five and six we went to Rose-Green : it rained hard at Bristol, but not a drop fell upon us, while I declared to about five thousand, "Christ our wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." I concluded the day by showing, at the Society in Baldwin-Street, that "his blood cleanseth us from all sin."

Tues. 17. At five in the afternoon, I was at a little Society in the Back-Lane. The room in which we were was propped beneath ; but the weight of people made the floor give way, so that in the beginning of the expounding, the post which propped it, fell down with a great noise. But the floor sunk no further, so that after a little surprise at first, they quietly attended to the things that were spoken.

Thence I went to Baldwin-Street, and expounded as it came in course, the fourth chapter of the Acts. We then called upon God, to confirm his word. Immediately one that stood by (to our no small surprise) cried out aloud, with the utmost vehemence, even as in the agonies of death. But we continued in prayer, till "a new song was put in her mouth, a thanksgiving unto our God." Soon after, two other persons (well known in this place, as labouring to live in all good conscience towards all men) were seized with strong pain, and constrained to "roar for the disquietness of their heart." But it was not long before they likewise burst forth into praise to God their Saviour. The last who called upon God as out of the belly of hell, was I——E——, a stranger in Bristol ; and in a short space he also was overwhelmed with joy and love, knowing that God had healed his backslidings. So many living witnesses hath God given that his hand is still "stretched out to heal," and that "signs and wonders are even now wrought by his holy child Jesus."

Wed. 18. In the evening, I——a S——, (late a Quaker, but baptized the day before,) R——a M——, and a few others, were admitted into the Society ; but R——a M—— was scarcely able either to speak or look up. "The sorrows of death compassed her about ; the pains of hell got hold upon her." We poured out our complaints before God, and showed him of her trouble. And he soon showed, he is a God "that heareth prayer : " she felt in herself, that "being justified freely, she had peace with God through Jesus Christ." She rejoiced in

hope of the glory of God; and "the love of God was shed abroad in her heart."

April 20. Being Good Friday, E—th R—n, T—l W—s, and one or two others, first knew they had "redemption in the blood of Christ, the remission of their sins."

Sat. 21. At Weaver's-Hall, a young man was suddenly seized with a violent trembling all over, and, in a few minutes, the sorrows of his heart being enlarged, sunk down to the ground. But we ceased not calling upon God, till he raised him full of peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

On Easter-day, it being a thorough rain, I could only preach at Newgate at eight in the morning, and two in the afternoon; in a house near Hannam-Mount at eleven; and in one near Rose-Green at five. At the Society, in the evening, many were cut to the heart, and many comforted.

Mon. 23. On a repeated invitation I went to Pensford, about five miles from Bristol. I sent to the Minister, to ask leave to preach in the church; but having waited some time and received no answer, I called on many of the people, who were gathered together in an open place, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." At four in the afternoon there were above three thousand, in a convenient place near Bristol, to whom I declared, "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live."

I preached at Bath to about a thousand on Tuesday morning, and at four in the afternoon to the poor colliers, at a place about the middle of Kingswood, called Two Mile-Hill. In the evening, at Baldwin-Street, a young man, after a sharp, though short, agony, both of body and mind, found his soul filled with peace, "knowing in whom he had believed."

Wed. 24. To above two thousand, at Baptist-Mills, I explained that glorious Scripture, (describing the state of every true believer in Christ,—every one who by faith is born of God,) "Ye have not received the spirit of bondage again unto fear, but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

Thurs. 25. While I was preaching at Newgate, on these words, "He that believeth hath everlasting life," I was

insensibly led, without any previous design, to declare strongly and explicitly, that "God willeth all men to be thus saved;" and to pray that, "If this were not the truth of God, he would not suffer the blind to go out of the way; but, if it were, he would bear witness to his word." Immediately one, and another, and another sunk to the earth: they dropped on every side as thunderstruck. One of them cried aloud. We besought God in her behalf, and he turned her heaviness into joy. A second being in the same agony, we called upon God for her also; and he spoke peace unto her soul. In the evening I was again pressed in spirit to declare, that "Christ gave himself a ransom for all." And almost before we called upon him, to set to his seal, he answered. One was so wounded by the sword of the spirit, that you would have imagined she could not live a moment. But immediately his abundant kindness was showed, and she loudly sang of his righteousness.

Fri. 26. All Newgate rang with the cries of those whom the word of God cut to the heart; two of whom were in a moment filled with joy, to the astonishment of those that beheld them.

Sun. 28. I declared the free grace of God to about four thousand people, from those words, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" At that hour it was, that one who had long continued in sin, from a despair of finding mercy, received a full, clear sense of his pardoning love, and power to sin no more. I then went to Clifton, (a mile from Bristol,) at the Minister's desire, who was dangerously ill, and thence returned to a little plain, near Hannam-Mount, where about three thousand were present. After dinner I went to Clifton again. The church was quite full at the prayers and sermon, as was the church-yard at the burial which followed. From Clifton we went to Rose-Green, where were (by computation) near seven thousand, and thence to Gloucester-Lane Society; after which was our first Love-feast in Baldwin-Street. O how has God renewed my strength, who used, ten years ago, to be so faint and weary with preaching twice in one day!

Mon. 29. We understood that many were offended at the cries of those on whom the power of God came; among whom was a physician, who was much afraid there

might be fraud or imposture in the case. To-day one whom he had known many years was the first (while I was preaching in Newgate) who broke out into "strong cries and tears." He could hardly believe his own eyes and ears. He went and stood close to her, and observed every symptom, till great drops of sweat ran down her face, and all her bones shook. He then knew not what to think, being clearly convinced it was not fraud, nor yet any natural disorder. But when both her soul and body were healed in a moment, he acknowledged the finger of God.

Tues. May 1. Many were offended again, and, indeed, much more than before; for at Baldwin-Street my voice could scarce be heard amidst the groanings of some, and the cries of others, calling aloud to "him that is mighty to save." I desired all that were sincere of heart to beseech with me "the Prince exalted for us," that he would "proclaim deliverance to the captives." And he soon showed that he heard our voice. Many of those who had been long in darkness saw the dawn of a great light; and ten persons (I afterwards found) then began to say in faith, "my Lord and my God!"

A Quaker, who stood by, was not a little displeased at the dissimulation of those creatures, and was biting his lips and knitting his brows, when he dropped down as thunder-struck. The agony he was in was even terrible to behold. We besought God not to lay folly to his charge: and he soon lifted up his heart and cried aloud, "Now I know thou art a prophet of the Lord."

Wed. 2. At Newgate, another mourner was comforted. I was desired to step thence to a neighbouring house, to see a letter wrote against me, as "a deceiver of the people," by teaching that God "willeth all men to be saved." One who long had asserted the contrary was there, when a young woman came in (who could say before, "I know that my Redeemer liveth") all in tears, and in deep anguish of spirit. She said "she had been reasoning with herself how these things could be, till she was perplexed more and more, and she now found the Spirit of God was departed from her." We began to pray, and she cried out, "He is come! He is come! I again rejoice in God my Saviour." Just as we rose from giving thanks, another person reeled four or five steps, and then dropped down. We prayed with her, and left her

strongly convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for deliverance.

I did not mention one J——n H———n, a weaver, who was at Baldwin-Street the night before. He was (I understood) a man of a regular life and conversation, one that constantly attended the public prayers and sacrament, and was zealous for the church, and against dissenters of every denomination. Being informed that people fell into strange fits at the Societies, he came to see and judge for himself. But he was less satisfied than before; insomuch that he went about to his acquaintance, one after another, till one in the morning, and laboured above measure to convince them "it was a delusion of the Devil." We were going home, when one met us in the street, and informed us, that "J——n H——— was fallen raving mad." It seems he had sat down to dinner, but had a mind first to end a sermon he had borrowed on "Salvation by Faith." In reading the last page, he changed colour, fell off his chair, and began screaming terribly, and beating himself against the ground. The neighbours were alarmed, and flocked together to the house. Between one and two I came in, and found him on the floor, the room being full of people, whom his wife would have kept without; but he cried aloud, "No; let them all come; let all the world see the just judgment of God." Two or three men were holding him as well as they could. He immediately fixed his eyes upon me, and stretching out his hand, cried, "Aye, this is he, who I said was a deceiver of the people. But God has overtaken me. I said it was all a delusion. But this is no delusion." He then roared out, "O thou devil! thou cursed devil! yea, thou legion of devils! thou canst not stay. Christ will cast thee out. I know his work is begun. Tear me to pieces, if thou wilt; but thou canst not hurt me." He then beat himself against the ground again; his breast heaving at the same time, as in the pangs of death, and great drops of sweat trickling down his face. We all betook ourselves to prayer. His pangs ceased, and both his body and soul were set at liberty.

Thence I went to Baptist-Mills, and declared Him whom God "hath exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto Israel and remission of sins." Returning to J——n H———, we found his voice was lost, and his body weak as that of an infant. But his soul was in

peace, full of love, and "rejoicing in hope of the glory of God."

The women of our Society met at seven. During our prayer, one of them fell into a violent agony; but soon after began to cry out with confidence, *My Lord and my God!* Saturday, 5th, I preached at the desire of an unknown correspondent, on those excellent words, (if well understood, as recommending faith, resignation, patience, meekness,) "Be still, and know that I am God."

Sun. 6. I preached in the morning to 5 or 6000 people, on "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven." (The same words on which I preached the next day, and on Wednesday at Baptist-Mills.) On Hannam-Mount I preached to about three thousand, on "The Scripture hath concluded all under sin;" at two at Clifton church, on Christ our "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption;" and about five, at Rose-Green, on the "promise by faith of Jesus Christ, which is given to them that believe."

Mon. 7. I was preparing to set out for Pensford, having now had leave to preach in the church, when I received the following note:—

"Sir, our Minister, having been informed, you are beside yourself, does not care you should preach in any of his churches."—I went, however, and on Priest-Down, about half a mile from Pensford, preached Christ our "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption."

Tues. 8. I went to Bath, but was not suffered to be in the meadow where I was before; which occasioned the offer of a much more convenient place; where I preached Christ to about a thousand souls.

Wed. 9. We took possession of a piece of ground, near St. James's church-yard, in the Horse Fair, where it was designed to build a room, large enough to contain both the Societies of Nicholas and Baldwin-Street, and such of their acquaintance as might desire to be present with them, at such time as the Scripture was expounded; and on Saturday, 12th, the first stone was laid, with the voice of praise and thanksgiving.

I had not at first the least apprehension or design of being personally engaged, either in the expense of this work, or in the direction of it; having appointed eleven feoffees, on whom I supposed these burdens would fall of course. But I quickly found my mistake; first, with

regard to the expense, for the whole undertaking must have stood still had not I immediately taken upon myself the payment of all the workmen; so that, before I knew where I was, I had contracted a debt of more than an hundred and fifty pounds. And this I was to discharge how I could,—the subscriptions of both Societies not amounting to one quarter of the sum. And as to the direction of the work, I presently received letters from my friends in London, Mr. Whitefield in particular, backed with a message by one just come from thence, that neither he nor they would have any thing to do with the building; neither contribute anything towards it, unless I would instantly discharge all feoffees, and do every thing in my own name. Many reasons they gave for this; but one was enough, viz., "That such feoffees always would have it in their power to control me; and if I preached not as they liked, to turn me out of the room I had built." I accordingly yielded to their advice; and calling all the feoffees together, cancelled (no man opposing) the instrument made before, and took the whole management into my own hands. Money, it is true, I had not, nor any human prospect or probability of procuring it: but I knew, "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof," and in His name set out, nothing doubting.

In the evening, while I was declaring, that Jesus Christ had "given himself a ransom for all," three persons, almost at once, sunk down as dead, having all their sins set in array before them. But in a short time they were raised up, and knew that "the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world," had taken away their sins.

Sun. 13. I began expounding in the morning the 13th chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians. At Hannam, I farther explained the promise given by faith; as I did also at Rose-Green. At Clifton, it pleased God to assist me greatly in speaking on those words, "He that drinketh of this water shall thirst again; but whoso drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water which I shall give him shall be in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting life."

My ordinary employment (in public) was now as follows: every morning I read prayers and preached at Newgate. Every evening I expounded a portion of Scripture at one or more of the Societies. On Monday, in the afternoon, I preached abroad, near Bristol; on Tuesday, at Bath

and Two Mile-Hill alternately; on Wednesday, at Baptist-Mills; every other Thursday, near Pensford; every other Friday, in another part of Kingswood; on Saturday in the afternoon, and Sunday morning, in the Bowling Green; (which lies near the middle of the city;) on Sunday, at eleven, near Hannam-Mount; at two, at Clifton; and at five, on Rose-Green: And hitherto, "as my day is, so my strength hath been."

Tues. 15. As I was expounding in the Back-Lane, on the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, many who had before been righteous in their own eyes abhorred themselves as in dust and ashes. But two, who seemed to be more deeply convinced than the rest, did not long sorrow as men without hope; but found in that hour that they had "an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;" as did three others in Gloucester-Lane the evening before, and three at Baldwin-Street this evening. About ten, two who, after seeing a great light, had again reasoned themselves into darkness, came to us, heavy laden. We cried to God, and they were again "filled with peace and joy in believing."

Wed. 16. While I was declaring at Baptist-Mills, "He was wounded for our transgressions," a middle-aged man began violently beating his breast, and crying to Him "by whose stripes we are healed." During our prayer, God put a new song in his mouth. Some mocked, and others owned the hand of God; particularly a woman of Baptist-Mills, who was now convinced of her own want of an advocate with God, and went home full of anguish; but was in a few hours filled with joy, knowing, He had "blotted out all her transgressions."

The scriptures which came in turn at Newgate to-day, was the 7th of St. John. The words which I chiefly insisted on as applicable to every Minister of Christ, who in any wise follows the steps of his Master, were these: "The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. There was a murmuring therefore concerning him among the multitude: for some said, he is a good man; others said, Nay, but he deceiveth the people." After sermon, I was informed the Sheriffs had ordered, "I should preach here, for the future, but once a week." Yea, and this is once too often, if he deceiveth the people: but if otherwise, why not once a day?

Sat. 19. At Weaver's-Hall, a woman first, and then a boy, (about fourteen years of age,) was overwhelmed with sin, and sorrow, and fear; but we cried to God, and their souls were delivered.

Sun. 20. Seeing many of the rich at Clifton Church, my heart was much pained for them, and I was earnestly desirous that some even of them might "enter into the kingdom of heaven." But full as I was, I knew not where to begin, in warning them to flee from the wrath to come, till my Testament opened on those words: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance;" in applying which my soul was so enlarged, that methought I could have cried out, (in another sense than poor vain Archimedes,) "Give me where to stand, and I will shake the earth." God's sending forth lightning with the rain did not hinder about fifteen hundred from staying at Rose-Green. Our scripture was, "It is the glorious God that maketh the thunder. The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice." In the evening, He spoke to three whose souls were all storm and tempest, and immediately there was a great calm.

During this whole time, I was almost continually asked, either by those who purposely came to Bristol to inquire concerning this strange work, or by my old or new correspondents, How can these things be? And innumerable cautions were given me, (generally grounded on gross misrepresentations of things,) "Not to regard visions or dreams; or to fancy people had remission of sins, because of their cries, or tears, or bare outward professions." To one who had many times wrote to me on this head, the sum of my answer was as follows:—

"The question between us turns chiefly, if not wholly, on matter of fact. You deny that God does now work these effects; at least, that he works them in this manner. I affirm both; because I have heard these things with my own ears, and have seen them with my eyes. I have seen (as far as a thing of this kind can be seen) very many persons changed in a moment from the spirit of fear, horror, despair, to the spirit of love, joy, and peace; and from sinful desire, till then reigning over them, to a pure desire of doing the will of God. These are matters of fact, whereof I have been, and almost daily am, an eye or ear-witness. What I have to say, touching visions

or dreams, is this : I know several persons in whom this great change was wrought in a dream, or during a strong representation to the eye of their mind, of Christ either on the cross or in glory. This is the fact; let any judge of it as they please. And that such a change was then wrought, appears (not from their shedding tears only, or falling into fits, or crying out; these are not the fruits, as you seem to suppose, whereby I judge, but) from the whole tenor of their life, till then, many ways wicked; from that time, holy, just, and good.

"I will show you him that was a lion till then, and is now a lamb; him that was a drunkard, and is now exemplarily sober; the whoremonger that was, who now abhors the very garment spotted by the flesh. These are my living arguments for what I assert, viz., 'That God does now, as aforetime, give remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost, even to us and to our children; yea, and that always suddenly, as far as I have known, and often in dreams or in the visions of God.' If it be not so, I am found a false witness before God. For these things I do, and by his grace will testify."

Perhaps it might be, because of the hardness of our hearts, unready to receive any thing unless we see it with our eyes and hear it with our ears, that God, in tender condescension to our weakness, suffered so many outward signs at the very time when he wrought this inward change, to be continually seen and heard among us. But although they saw signs and wonders, (for so I must term them,) yet many would not believe. They could not, indeed, deny the facts, but they could explain them away. Some said, "These were purely natural effects: the people fainted away only because of the heat and closeness of the rooms." And others were sure, "it was all a cheat: they might help it if they would. Else why were these things only in their private Societies? Why were they not done in the face of the sun?" To-day, Monday, 21, our Lord answered for himself; for while I was enforcing these words, "Be still, and know that I am God," he began to make bare his arm, not in a close room, neither in private, but in the open air, and before more than two thousand witnesses. One, and another, and another was struck to the earth; exceedingly trembling at the presence of his power. Others cried, with a loud and bitter cry,

"What must we do to be saved?" And in less than an hour seven persons, wholly unknown to me till that time, were rejoicing and singing, and, with all their might, giving thanks to the God of their salvation.

In the evening I was interrupted at Nicholas-Street, almost as soon as I had begun to speak, by the cries of one who was "pricked at the heart," and strongly groaned for pardon and peace. Yet I went on to declare what God had already done, in proof of that important truth, that he is "not willing any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Another person dropped down close to one who was a strong asserter of the contrary doctrine. While he stood astonished at the sight, a little boy near him was seized in the same manner. A young man, who stood up behind, fixed his eyes on him, and sunk down himself as one dead; but soon began to roar out, and beat himself against the ground, so that six men could scarcely hold him. His name was Thomas Maxfield. Except J——n H——n, I never saw one so torn of the evil one. Meanwhile many others began to cry out to the Saviour of all, that he would come and help them, insomuch that all the house (and, indeed, all the street for some space) was in an uproar. But we continued in prayer; and before ten the greater part found rest to their souls.

I was called from supper to one who, feeling in herself such a conviction as she never had known before, had run out of the Society in all haste, that she might not expose herself; but the hand of God followed her still, so that after going a few steps, she was forced to be carried home, and when she was there grew worse and worse. She was in a violent agony when we came: we called upon God, and her soul found rest.

About twelve I was greatly importuned to go and visit one person more. She had only one struggle after I came; and was then filled with peace and joy. I think twenty-nine, in all, had their heaviness turned into joy this day.

Tues. 22. I preached to about a thousand at Bath: there were several fine gay things among them, to whom especially I called; "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light!"

Sat. 26. One came to us in deep despair; but after an hour spent in prayer, went away in peace. The next day, having observed in many a zeal which did not suit

with the sweetness and gentleness of love, I preached at Rose-Green on those words, (to the largest congregation I ever had there; I believe upwards of ten thousand souls,) "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of: for the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." At the Society in the evening, eleven were deeply convinced of sin, and soon after comforted.

Mon. 28. I began preaching at Weaver's-Hall, at eleven in the forenoon; where two persons were enabled to cry out in faith, "My Lord and my God!" as were seven, during the sermon in the afternoon, before several thousand witnesses; and ten in the evening, at Baldwin-Street, of whom two were children.

Tues. 29. I was unknowingly engaged in conversation with a famous Infidel, a confirmer of the unfaithful in these parts. He appeared a little surprised, and said, "He would pray to God to show him the true way of worshipping Him."

On Ascension-day, in the morning, some of us went to King's-Weston-Hill, four or five miles from Bristol. Two gentlemen going by, sent up to us, in sport, many persons from the neighbouring villages, to whom, therefore, I took occasion to explain those words: "Thou art ascended up on high, thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men, yea, even for the rebellious, that the Lord God might dwell among them."

Sun. June 3. In the morning, to about six thousand persons, in concluding the 13th chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians, I described a truly charitable man. At Hannam-Mount I enforced those words: "That every mouth may be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God;" and again, in the afternoon, at Rose-Green, to, I believe, eight or nine thousand. In the evening, not being permitted to meet in Baldwin-Street, we met in the shell of our new society-room. The scripture which came in course to be explained, was, "Marvel not if the world hate you." We sung

Arm of the Lord, awake, awake,
Thine own immortal strength put on:

"And God, even our own God, gave us his blessing."

Mon. 4. Many came to me and earnestly advised me "not to preach abroad in the afternoon, because there was a combination of several persons, who threatened terrible things." This report being spread abroad brought

many thither of the better sort of people, (so called,) and added, I believe, more than a thousand to the ordinary congregation. The scripture to which, not my choice, but the Providence of God directed me, was, "Fear not thou, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, yea I will help thee, yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." The power of God came with His word; so that none scoffed, or interrupted, or opened his mouth.

Tues. 5. There was a great expectation at Bath of what a noted man was to do to me there; and I was much entreated "not to preach, because no one knew what might happen." By this report I also gained a much larger audience, among whom were many of the rich and great. I told them plainly, "The Scripture had concluded them all under sin," high and low, rich and poor, one with another. Many of them seemed to be a little surprised, and were sinking apace into seriousness, when their champion appeared, and coming close to me, asked, "By what authority I did these things?" I replied, By the authority of Jesus Christ, conveyed to me by the (now) Archbishop of Canterbury, when he laid his hands upon me and said, "Take thou authority to preach the Gospel." He said, "This is contrary to Act of Parliament. This is a conventicle." I answered, "Sir, the conventicles mentioned in that Act (as the preamble shows) are seditious meetings; but this is not such; here is no shadow of sedition; therefore it is not contrary to that Act." He replied, "I say it is: and beside, your preaching frightens people out of their wits." "Sir, did you ever hear me preach?" No. "How then can you judge of what you never heard?" "Sir, by common report." "Common report is not enough. Give me leave, Sir, to ask, is not your name Nash?" "My name is Nash." "Sir, I dare not judge of you by common report. I think it not enough to judge by." Here he paused awhile, and having recovered himself, said, "I desire to know what this people comes here for?" On which ope replied, "Sir, leave him to me. Let an old woman answer him." "You, Mr. Nash, take care of your body. We take care of our souls; and for the food of our souls we come here." He replied not a word, but walked away.

As I returned, the street was full of people, hurrying to and fro, and speaking great words; but when any of

them asked, "Which is he?" and I replied, "I am he," they were immediately silent. Several ladies following me into Mr. Merchant's house, the servant told me, "There were some wanted to speak to me." I went to them, and said, "I believe, ladies, the maid mistook; you only wanted to look at me." I added, "I do not expect that the rich and great should want either to speak with me, or to hear me; for I speak the plain truth: a thing you hear little of, and do not desire to hear." A few more words passed between us, and I retired.

Tues. 7. I preached at Priest-Down, on "What must we do to be saved?" In the midst of the prayer after sermon, two men (hired, as we afterwards understood, for that purpose) began singing a ballad. After a few mild words, (for I saw some that were angry,) used without effect, we all began singing a psalm, which put them utterly to silence. We then poured out our souls in prayer for them, and they appeared altogether confounded. O may this be a day much to be remembered by them, for the loving-kindness of the Lord!

Mon. 11. I received a pressing letter from London, (as I had several others before,) to come thither as soon as possible; "our brethren in Fetter-Lane being in great confusion, for want of my presence and advice." I therefore preached in the afternoon, on these words, "I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men; for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." After sermon, I commended them to the grace of God, in whom they had believed. Surely God hath yet a work to do in this place. I have not found such love, no not in England; nor so childlike, artless, teachable a temper, as he hath given to this people.

Yet during this whole time I had many thoughts concerning the unusual manner of my ministering among them. But after frequently laying it before the Lord, and calmly weighing whatever objections I heard against it, I could not but adhere to what I had some time since wrote to a friend, who had freely spoken his sentiments concerning it. An extract of that letter I here subjoin, that the matter may be placed in a clear light.

DEAR SIR,

The best return I can make for the kind freedom you use, is to use the same to you. O may the God whom

we serve sanctify it to us both, and teach us the whole truth, as it is in Jesus.

You say, "You cannot reconcile some parts of my behaviour with the character I have long supported." No, nor ever will: therefore I have disclaimed that character on every possible occasion. I told all in our ship, all at Savannah, all at Frederica, and that over and over, in express terms, "I am not a Christian; I only follow after, if haply I may attain it." When they urged my works and self-denial, I answered short, "Though I give all my goods to feed the poor, and my body to be burned, I am nothing;" for I have not charity: I do not love God with all my heart. If they added, "Nay, but you could not preach as you do, if you was not a Christian;" I again confronted them with St. Paul, "Though I speak with the tongue of men and angels, and have not charity, I am nothing." Most earnestly, therefore, both in public and private, did I inculcate this, "Be not ye shaken, however I may fall: for the foundation standeth sure."

If you ask, "On what principle then I acted?" it was this: "A desire to be a Christian, and a conviction that whatever I judge conducive thereto, that I am bound to do; wherever I judge I can best answer this end, thither it is my duty to go." On this principle I set out for America; on this, I visited the Moravian Church; and on the same, am I ready now (God being my helper) to go to Abyssinia or China, or whithersoever it shall please God, by this conviction, to call me.

As to your advice, "That I should settle in College," I have no business there, having now no office, and no pupils; and whether the other branch of your proposal be expedient for me, viz., "To accept of a cure of souls," it will be time enough to consider, when one is offered to me.

But in the mean time, you think "I ought to sit still; because otherwise I should invade another's office, if I interfered with other people's business, and intermeddled with souls that did not belong to me." You accordingly ask, "How is it that I assemble Christians who are none of my charge, to sing psalms, and pray, and hear the Scriptures expounded; and think it hard to justify doing this in other men's parishes, upon catholic principles?"

Permit me to speak plainly. If by Catholic principles,

you mean any other than scriptural, they weigh nothing with me: I allow no other rule, whether of faith or practice, than the Holy Scriptures. But on scriptural principles, I do not think it hard, to justify whatever I do. God, in Scripture, commands me, according to my power, to instruct the ignorant, reform the wicked, confirm the virtuous. Man forbids me to do this in another's parish; that is, in effect, to do it at all; seeing I have now no parish of my own, nor probably ever shall. Whom then shall I hear? God or man? "If it be just to obey man rather than God, judge you." "A dispensation of the Gospel is committed to me, and woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." But where shall I preach it upon the principles you mention? Why, not in Europe, Asia, Africa, or America: not in any of the Christian parts, at least, of the habitable earth; for all these are, after a sort, divided into parishes. If it be said, "Go back then to the Heathens, from whence you came;" nay, but neither could I now (on your principles) preach to them; for all the Heathens in Georgia belong to the parish either of Savannah or Frederica.

Suffer me now to tell you my principles in this matter. I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty, to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation. This is the work which I know God has called me to; and sure I am, that his blessing attends it. Great encouragement have I, therefore, to be faithful in fulfilling the work He hath given me to do: His servant I am, and as such am employed according to the plain direction of his word, "As I have opportunity, doing good to all men." And his providence clearly concurs with his word; which has disengaged me from all things else, that I might singly attend on this very thing, "and go about doing good."

If you ask, "How can this be? How can one do good, of whom 'men say all manner of evil?'" I will put you in mind, (though you once knew this, yea, and much established me in that great truth,) the more evil men say of me, for my Lord's sake, the more good will He do by me. That it is for his sake, I know, and he knoweth: and the event agreeth thereto; for he mightily confirms the words I speak, by the Holy Ghost, given unto those that hear them. O my friend, my heart is

moved toward you : I fear you have herein made shipwreck of the faith : I fear, "Satan, transformed into an angel of light," hath assaulted you, and prevailed also. I fear that offspring of hell, worldly or mystic prudence, has drawn you away from the simplicity of the Gospel. How else could you ever conceive, that the being reviled, and "hated of all men," should make us less fit for our Master's service? How else could you ever think of "saving yourself and them that hear you," without being "the filth and offscouring of the world?" To this hour, is this Scripture true; and I therein rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. Blessed be God, I enjoy the reproach of Christ ! O may you also be vile, exceeding vile for his sake ! God forbid that you should ever be other than generally scandalous ; I had almost said universally. If any man tell you there is a new way of following Christ, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him. I am, &c.

Wed. 13. In the morning, I came to London, and after receiving the Holy Communion at Islington, I had once more an opportunity of seeing my mother, whom I had not seen since my return from Germany.

I cannot but mention an odd circumstance here. I had read her a paper in June last year, containing a short account of what had passed in my own soul, till within a few days of that time. She greatly approved of it, and said, "She heartily blessed God, who had brought me to so just a way of thinking." While I was in Germany, a copy of that paper was sent (without my knowledge) to one of my relations. He sent an account of it to my mother, whom I now found under strange fears concerning me ; being convinced, by "an account taken from one of my own papers, that I had greatly erred from the faith." I could not conceive what paper that should be ; but on inquiry, found it was the same I had read her myself.—How hard is it to form a true judgment of any person or thing, from the account of a prejudiced relater ! yea, though he be ever so honest a man : for he who gave this relation, was one of unquestionable veracity ; and yet by his sincere account of a writing which lay before his eyes, was the truth so totally disguised, that my mother knew not the paper she had heard from end to end, nor I that I had myself wrote.

At six I warned the women at Fetter-Lane, (knowing

how they had been lately shaken,) "not to believe every spirit, but to try the spirits, whether they be of God." Our brethren met at eight, when it pleased God to remove many misunderstandings and offences that had crept in among them; and to restore, in good measure, "the spirit of love and of a sound mind."

Thur. 14. I went with Mr. Whitefield to Blackheath, where were, I believe, twelve or fourteen thousand people. He a little surprised me, by desiring me to preach in his stead; which I did, (though nature recoiled,) on my favourite subject, "Jesus Christ, who of God is made unto us, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption."

I was greatly moved with compassion for the rich that were there, to whom I made a particular application. Some of them seemed to attend, while others drove away their coaches, from so uncouth a preacher.

Fri. 15. I had much talk with one who is called a Quaker; but he could not receive my saying. I was too strict for him, and talked of such a perfection, as he could not think necessary; being persuaded, there was no harm in costly apparel, provided it was plain and grave; nor in putting scarlet or gold upon our houses, so it were not upon our clothes.

In the evening I went to a Society at Wapping, weary in body and faint in spirit. I intended to speak on Romans iii. 19, but could not tell how to open my mouth: and all the time we were singing, my mind was full of some place, I know not where, in the Epistle to the Hebrews. I begged God to direct, and opened the book on Heb. x. 19: "Having, therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest, by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." While I was earnestly inviting all sinners to "enter into the holiest by this new and living way," many of those that heard began to call upon God with strong cries and tears. Some sunk down and there remained no strength in them; others exceedingly trembled and quaked; some were torn with a kind of convulsive motion in every part of their bodies, and that so violently, that often four or five persons could not hold one of

them. I have seen many hysterical and many epileptic fits : but none of them were like these, in many respects. I immediately prayed, "That God would not suffer those who were weak to be offended." But one woman was offended greatly; being sure, "they might help it if they would; no one should persuade her to the contrary;" and was got three or four yards, when she also dropped down, in as violent an agony as the rest. Twenty-six of those who had been thus affected (most of whom, during the prayers which were made for them, were in a moment filled with peace and joy) promised to call upon me the next day : but only eighteen came; by talking closely with whom, I found reason to believe, that some of them had gone home to their house justified; the rest seemed to be patiently waiting for it.

Sat. 16. We met at Fetter-Lane, to humble ourselves before God, and own he had justly withdrawn his Spirit from us, for our manifold unfaithfulness. We acknowledged our having grieved him by our divisions, "one saying, I am of Paul; another, I am of Apollos;" by our leaning again to our own works, and trusting in them, instead of Christ; by our resting in those little beginnings of sanctification, which it had pleased him to work in our souls; and above all, by blaspheming his work among us, imputing it either to nature, to the force of imagination and animal spirits, or even to the delusion of the Devil. In that hour, we found God with us as at the first. Some fell prostrate upon the ground; others burst out, as with one consent, into loud praise and thanksgiving; and many openly testified, there had been no such day as this since January the first preceding.

Sun. 17. I preached, at seven, in Upper Moorfields, to (I believe) six or seven thousand people, on "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." In the afternoon I saw poor R——d T——n, who had left our Society and the Church. We did not dispute, but pray; and in a short space the scales fell off from his eyes: he gladly returned to the Church, and was in the evening readmitted into our Society.

At five I preached on Kennington-Common, to about fifteen thousand people, on those words: "Look unto him, and be ye saved, all ye ends of the earth."

Mon. 18. I left London early in the morning, and the

next evening reached Bristol, and preached (as I had appointed, if God should permit) to a numerous congregation. My text now also was, "Look unto him, and be saved, all ye ends of the earth." Howel Harris called upon me an hour or two after. He said, "He had been much dissuaded from either hearing or seeing me, by many who said all manner of evil of me; but, said he, as soon as I heard you preach, I quickly found what spirit you was of; and before you had done, I was so overpowered with joy and love, that I had much ado to walk home."

It is scarce credible, what advantage Satan had gained during my absence of only eight days: disputes had crept into our little Society, so that the love of many was already waxed cold. I showed them the state they were in the next day, (both at Newgate and at Baptist-Mills,) from those words, "Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." And when we met in the evening, instead of reviving the dispute, we all betook ourselves to prayer. Our Lord was with us; our divisions were healed; misunderstandings vanished away; and all our hearts were sweetly drawn together, and united as at the first.

Fri. 22. I called on one who "did run well," till he was hindered by some of those called French prophets. "Woe unto the prophets, saith the Lord, who prophesy in my name, and I have not sent them." At Weaver's-Hall, I endeavoured to point them out, and earnestly exhorted all that followed after holiness, to avoid, as fire, all who do not speak according "to the law and the testimony."

In the afternoon I preached at the Fish-Ponds; but had no life or spirit in me; and was much in doubt, whether God would not lay me aside, and send other labourers into his harvest. I came to the Society full of this thought; and began, in much weakness, to explain, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they be of God." I told them, "They were not to judge of the spirit whereby any one spoke, either by appearances, or by common report, or by their own inward feelings. No, nor by any dreams, visions or revelations, supposed to be made to their souls, any more than by their tears, or any involuntary effects wrought upon their bodies." I warned them, all these were in

themselves, of a doubtful, disputable nature: they might be from God, and they might not; and were therefore not simply to be relied on, (any more than simply to be condemned,) but to be tried by a farther rule; to be brought to the only certain test, the law and the testimony." While I was speaking, one before me dropped down as dead, and presently a second and a third: five others sunk down in half an hour, most of whom were in violent agonies. "The pains [as] of hell came about them; the snares of death overtook them." In their trouble we called upon the Lord, and he gave us an answer of peace. One indeed continued an hour in strong pain; and one or two more for three days; but the rest were greatly comforted in that hour, and went away rejoicing and praising God.

Sat. 23. I spoke severally with those who had been so troubled the night before: some of them I found were only convinced of sin; others had indeed found rest to their souls. This evening another was seized with strong pangs; but in a short time her soul was delivered.

Sun. 24. As I was riding to Rose-Green, in a smooth, plain part of the road, my horse suddenly pitched upon his head, and rolled over and over. I received no other hurt than a little bruise on one side, which, for the present, I felt not; but preached without pain to six or seven thousand people, on that important direction, "Whether ye eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." In the evening, a girl of 13 or 14, and four or five other persons, some of whom had felt the power of God before, were deeply convinced of sin, and, with sighs and groans which could not be uttered, called upon God for deliverance.

Mon. 25. About ten in the morning, J——e C——r, as she was sitting at work, was suddenly seized with grievous terrors of mind, attended with strong trembling. Thus she continued all the afternoon; but at the Society, in the evening, God turned her heaviness into joy. Five or six others were also cut to the heart this day; and soon after found Him "whose hands make whole;" as did one likewise who had been mourning many months without any to comfort her.

Tues. 26. I preached near the house we had a few days before began to build for a school, in the middle of Kingswood, under a little sycamore tree, during a violent

storm of rain, on those words : " As the rain cometh down from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, so shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth : it shall not return unto me void ; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Three persons terribly felt the wrath of God abiding on them, at the Society this evening ; but upon prayer made in their behalf, he was pleased soon to lift up the light of his countenance upon them.

Fri. 29. I preached in a part of Kingswood where I never had been before. The places in Kingswood where I now usually preached were these : once a fortnight, a little above Connam, a village on the south side of the wood ; on Sunday morning, near Hannam-Mount ; once a fortnight, at the school-house, in the middle of Kingswood ; on Sunday, in the evening, at Rose-Green ; and once a fortnight, near the Fish-Ponds, on the north side of the wood.

Sat. 30. At Weaver's-Hall, seven or eight persons were constrained to roar aloud, while the sword of the Spirit was " dividing asunder their souls and spirits, and joints and marrow." But they were all relieved upon prayer, and sang " praises unto our God, and unto the Lamb that liveth for ever and ever."

I gave a particular account, from time to time, of the manner wherein God here carried on his work, to those whom I believed to desire the increase of his kingdom, with whom I had any opportunity of corresponding. Part of the answer which I received (some time after) from one of these, I cannot but here subjoin.

I desire to bless my Lord for the good and great news your letter bears, about the Lord's turning many souls " from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God ;" and that such " a great and effectual door is opened " among you, as the " many adversaries " cannot shut. O may " He that hath the key of the house of David, that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth," set the door of faith more and more open among you, till his house be filled, and till He gather together the outcasts of Israel : and may that prayer for the adversaries be heard, " Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek thy name, O Lord."

As to the outward manner you speak of, wherein most of them were affected who were cut to the heart by the sword of the Spirit, no wonder that this was at first surprising to you, since they are indeed so very rare that have been thus pricked and wounded. Yet some of the instances you give seem to be exemplified in the outward manner wherein Paul and the jailor were at first affected; as also Peter's hearers, Acts ii. The last instance you gave of some struggling as in the agonies of death, and in such a manner as that four or five strong men can hardly restrain a weak woman from hurting herself or others: this is to me somewhat more inexplicable; if it do not resemble the child spoke of, Mark ix. 26, and Luke ix. 42; of whom it is said, that "while he was yet a coming, the Devil threw him down and tare him." Or what influence sudden and sharp awakenings may have upon the body, I pretend not to explain. But I make no question Satan, so far as he gets power, may exert himself on such occasions, partly to hinder the good work in the persons thus touched with the sharp arrows of conviction, and partly to disparage the work of God, as if it tended to lead people to distraction. However, the merciful issue of these conflicts, in the conversion of the persons thus affected, is the main thing.

When they are brought by the saving arm of God to receive Christ Jesus, to have joy and peace in believing, and then to walk in Him, and give evidence that the work is a saving work at length, whether more quickly or more gradually accomplished, there is great matter of praise.—

All the outward appearances of people's being affected among us may be reduced to these two sorts: One is, hearing with a close, silent attention, with gravity and greediness, discovered by fixed looks, weeping eyes, and sorrowful or joyful countenances: Another sort is, when they lift up their voice aloud, some more depressedly, and others more highly; and, at times, the whole multitude in a flood of tears, all as it were crying out at once, till their voice be ready to drown the Minister's, that he can scarce be heard for the weeping noise that surrounds him. The influence on some of these, like a land-flood, dries up; we hear of no change wrought; but on others it appears in the fruits of righteousness, and the tract of a holy conversation.

May the Lord strengthen you to go on in his work, and in praying for the coming of his kingdom with you and us! And I hope you shall not be forgotten among us, in our joint application to the throne of grace.—

I am, reverend and dear Sir,

Your very affectionate brother and servant in Christ,

RALPH ERSKINE.

Sun. July 1. I preached to about five thousand, on the favourite advice of the Infidel in Ecclesiastes: (so zealously enforced by his brethren now:) "Be not righteous over much." At Hannam and at Rose-Green I explained the latter part of the 7th of St. Luke; that verse especially, "When they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both."

A young woman sunk down at Rose-Green, in a violent agony both of body and mind: as did five or six persons in the evening, at the New-Room, at whose cries many were greatly offended. The same offence was given in the morning, by one at Weaver's-Hall, and by eight or nine others, at Gloucester-Lane, in the evening. The first that was deeply touched was L—— W——; whose mother had been not a little displeased a day or two before, when she was told her daughter had exposed herself before all the congregation. The mother herself was the next who dropped down, and lost her senses in a moment; but went home with her daughter full of joy, as did most of those that had been in pain.

Soon after the Society, I went to Mrs. T——'s, whose nearest relations were earnestly dissuading her from being "righteous over much;" and by the old motive, "Why shouldst thou destroy thyself?" She answered all they advanced with meekness and love, and continued steadfast and immovable. Endure hardship still, thou good soldier of Christ! Persecuted, but not forsaken: torn with inward, and encompassed with outward temptations; but yielding to none. O may patience have its perfect work!

Tues. 3. I preached at Bath to the most attentive and serious audience I have ever seen there. On Wednesday I preached at Newgate on those words, "Because of the Pharisees they durst not confess him.—For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." A message was delivered to me when I had done, from the Sheriffs, "That I must preach there no more."

Fri. 6. I pressed a serious Quaker to tell me why he did not come to hear me as formerly. He said, "Because he found we were not 'led by the Spirit;' for we fixed times of preaching beforehand: whereas we ought to do nothing, unless we were sensibly moved thereto by the Holy Ghost." I asked, "Whether we ought not to do what God in Scripture commands, when we have opportunity? Whether the providence of God thus concurring with his word, were not a sufficient reason for our doing it, although we were not at that moment sensibly moved thereto by the Holy Ghost?" He answered, "It was not a sufficient reason. This was to regard the letter that killeth." God grant that I may so regard it all the days of my life!

In the afternoon I was with Mr. Whitefield, just come from London, with whom I went to Baptist-Mills, where he preached concerning the "Holy Ghost, which all who believe are to receive;" not without a just, though severe, censure of those who preach as if there were no Holy Ghost.

Sat. 7. I had an opportunity to talk with him of those outward signs, which had so often accompanied the inward work of God. I found his objections were chiefly grounded on gross misrepresentations of matter of fact; but the next day he had an opportunity of informing himself better. For, no sooner had he begun (in the application of his sermon) to invite all sinners to believe in Christ, than four persons sunk down close to him almost in the same moment. One of them lay without either sense or motion; a second trembled exceedingly; the third had strong convulsions all over his body, but made no noise, unless by groans; the fourth, equally convulsed, called upon God with strong cries and tears. From this time I trust we shall all suffer God to carry on his own work in the way that pleaseth him.

Thur. 13. I went to a gentleman who is much troubled with what they call lowness of spirits. Many such have I been with before; but in several of them it was no bodily distemper. They wanted something,—they knew not what,—and were therefore heavy, uneasy, and dissatisfied with everything. The plain truth is, they wanted God, they wanted Christ, they wanted faith; and God convinced them of their want in a way their physicians no more understood than themselves. Accordingly noth-

ing availed till the Great Physician came. For, in spite of all natural means, He who made them for himself would not suffer them to rest till they rested in Him.

On Friday, in the afternoon, I left Bristol with Mr. Whitefield, in the midst of heavy rain. But the clouds soon dispersed, so that we had a fair, calm evening, and a serious congregation at Thornbury.

In the morning we breakfasted with a Quaker, who had been brought up in the Church of England; but being under strong convictions of inward sin, and applying to several persons for advice, they all judged him to be under a disorder of body, and gave advice accordingly. Some Quakers with whom he met about the same time, told him it was the hand of God upon his soul; and advised him to seek another sort of relief than those miserable comforters had recommended. "Woe unto you, ye blind leaders of the blind!" How long will ye pervert the right ways of the Lord? Ye who tell the mourners in Zion, much religion hath made you mad! Ye who send them whom God hath wounded to the Devil for cure; to company, idle books, or diversions! Thus shall they perish in their iniquity; but their blood shall God require at your hands!

We had an attentive congregation at Gloucester in the evening. In the morning, Mr. Whitefield being gone forward, I preached to about five thousand there, on "Christ our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." It rained violently at five in the evening; notwithstanding which two or three thousand people stayed, to whom I expounded that glorious vision of Ezekiel, of the resurrection of the dry bones.

On Monday, 16th, after preaching to two or three thousand, on, "What must I do to be saved?" I returned to Bristol, and preached to about three thousand, on those words of Job: "There the wicked cease from troubling; there the weary are at rest."

Tues. 17. I rode to Bradford, five miles from Bath, whither I had long been invited to come. I waited on the Minister, and desired leave to preach in his Church. He said, "It was not usual to preach on the week-days; but if I could come thither on a Sunday, he should be glad of my assistance." Thence I went to a gentleman in the town, who had been present when I preached at Bath, and with the strongest marks of sincerity and

affection, "wished me good luck in the name of the Lord." But it was past. I found him now quite cold. He began disputing on several heads; and at last told me plainly, one of our College had informed him, "They always took me to be a little crack-brained at Oxford."

However, some persons who were not of his mind, having pitched on a convenient place (called Bear-field or Bury-field) on the top of the hill under which the town lies, I there offered Christ to about a thousand people, for "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Thence I returned to Bath, and preached on, "What must I do to be saved?" to a larger audience than ever before. I was wondering, the God of this world was so still; when, at my return from the place of preaching, poor R——d M——I told me, "He could not let me preach any more in his ground." I asked him, why? He said, "The people hurt his trees, and stole things out of his ground. And besides, (added he,) I have already, by letting thee be there, merited the displeasure of my neighbours." O fear of man! Who is above thee, but they who indeed "worship God in spirit and in truth?" Not even those who have one foot in the grave! Not even those who dwell in rooms of cedar; and who have heaped up gold as the dust, and silver as the sand of the sea!

Sat. 21. I began expounding, a second time, our Lord's Sermon on the Mount. In the morning, Sunday, 22d, as I was explaining, "Blessed are the pure in spirit," to about three thousand people, we had a fair opportunity of showing all men what manner of spirit we were made of; for, in the middle of the sermon, the press-gang came, and seized on one of the hearers; (ye learned in the law, what becomes of *Magna Charta*, and of English liberty and property? Are not these mere sounds, while, on any pretence, there is such a thing as a press-gang suffered in the land?) all the rest standing still, and none opening his mouth or lifting up his hand to resist them.

Mon. 23. To guard young converts from fancying that they had already attained, or were already perfect, I preached on those words: "So is the kingdom of God, as when a man casteth seed into the ground, and riseth day and night, and the seed buddeth forth and springeth up

he knoweth not how,—first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear.”

On several evenings this week, and particularly on Friday, many were deeply convinced, but none were delivered from that painful conviction. “The children came to the birth; but there was not strength to bring forth.” I fear we have grieved the Spirit of the jealous God, by questioning his work; and that therefore He is withdrawn from us for a season. “But He will return and abundantly pardon.”

Mon. 30. Two more were in strong pain, both their souls and bodies being well nigh torn asunder. But though we cried unto God, there was no answer; neither did He as yet deliver them at all.

One of these had been remarkably zealous against those that cried out and made a noise, being sure that any of them might help it if they would. And the same opinion she was in still, till the moment she was struck through, as with a sword, and fell trembling to the ground. She then cried aloud, though not articulately; her words being swallowed up. In this pain she continued twelve or fourteen hours, and then her soul was set at liberty. But her master (for she was a servant till that time, at a gentleman's in town) forbade her returning to him, saying, “He would have none in his house who had received the Holy Ghost.”

Tues. 31. I preached at Bradford to above two thousand, many of whom were of the better rank, on, “What must I do to be saved?” They all behaved with decency, and none went away till the service was ended. While I was preaching at Bath, in my return, some of the audience did not behave so well; being, I fear, a little too nearly concerned, when I came to the application of those words: “Not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.”

Having “A Caution against Religious Delusion” put into my hands about this time, I thought it my duty to write to the author of it; which I accordingly did, in the following terms:—

Reverend Sir,

1. You charge me (for I am called a Methodist, and

consequently included within your charge) with "vain and confident boastings; rash, uncharitable censures; damning all who do not feel what I feel; not allowing men to be in a salvable state, unless they have experienced some sudden operation, which may be distinguished as the hand of God upon them, overpowering as it were the soul; with denying men the use of God's creatures, which He hath appointed to be received with thanksgiving, and encouraging abstinence, prayer, and other religious exercises, to the neglect of the duties of our station." O Sir, can you prove this charge upon me? The Lord shall judge in that day!

2. I do indeed go out into the highways and hedges, to call poor sinners to Christ; but not in a tumultuous manner; not to the disturbance of the public peace, or the prejudice of families. Neither herein do I break any law which I know; much less set at nought all rule and authority. Nor can I be said to "intrude into the labours" of those who do not labour at all, but suffer thousands of those for whom Christ died to "perish for lack of knowledge."

3. They perish for want of knowing that *we*, as well as the Heathens, "are alienated from the life of God;" that "every one of us," by the corruption of our inmost nature, "is very far gone from original righteousness;" so far that "every person born into the world deserveth God's wrath and damnation;" that we have by nature no power either to help ourselves, or even to call upon God to help us; all our tempers and works in our natural state being only evil continually. So that our coming to Christ, as well as theirs, must infer a great and mighty change. It must infer not only an outward change, from stealing, lying, and all corrupt communication; but a thorough change of heart, an inward renewal in the spirit of our mind. Accordingly, "the old man" implies infinitely more than outward evil conversation, even "an evil heart of unbelief," corrupted by pride and a thousand deceitful lusts. Of consequence, the "new man" must imply infinitely more than outward good conversation; even a good heart, "which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness:" a heart full of that faith which, working by love, produces all holiness of conversation.

4. The change from the former of these states to the latter is what I call, the New Birth. But you say I am

not content with this plain and easy notion of it, but fill myself and others with fantastical conceits about it. Alas, Sir, how can you prove this? And if you cannot prove it, what amends can you make, either to God or to me, or to the world, for publicly asserting a gross falsehood?

5. Perhaps you say, you can prove this of Mr. Whitefield; what then? This is nothing to me; I am not accountable for *his* words. The journal you quote I never saw till it was in print. But indeed you wrong him as much as me; first, where you represent him as judging the notions of the Quakers in general (concerning being led by the Spirit) to be right and good; whereas he speaks only of those particular men, with whom he was then conversing. And again, where you say, he supposes a person believing in Christ, to be without any saving knowledge of him. He supposes no such thing. To believe in Christ was the very thing he supposed wanting; as understanding that term *believing* to imply, not only an assent to the articles of our Creed, but also "a true trust and confidence of the mercy of God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

6. Now this it is certain a man may want, although he can truly say, "I am chaste, I am sober, I am just in my dealings, I help my neighbour and use the ordinances of God." And however such a man may have behaved in these respects, he is not to think well of his own state, till he experiences something within himself, which he has not yet experienced, but which he may be beforehand assured he shall, if the promises of God are true. That something is a living faith; "a sure trust and confidence in God, that by the merits of Christ his sins are forgiven, and he reconciled to the favour of God." And from this will spring many other things, which till then he experienced not; as the love of God shed abroad in his heart, the peace of God which passeth all understanding, and joy in the Holy Ghost: joy, though not unfelt, yet unspeakable and full of glory.

7. These are some of those inward fruits of the spirit which must be *felt*, wheresoever they are; and without these I cannot learn, from Holy Writ, that any man is "born of the Spirit." I beseech you, Sir, by the mercies of God, that if as yet you know nothing of such inward feelings, if you do not "feel in yourself these mighty workings of the Spirit of Christ," at least you would not

contradict and blaspheme. When the Holy Ghost hath fervently kindled your love towards God, you will know these to be very sensible operations. As you hear the wind, and feel it too, while it strikes upon your bodily organs, you will know you are under the guidance of God's Spirit the same way, namely, by feeling it in your soul; by the present peace and joy and love which you feel within, as well as by its outward and more distant effects.

I am, &c.

I have often wished, that all calm and impartial men would consider what is advanced by another writer, in a little discourse concerning enthusiasm or religious delusion, published about this time. His words are,

"A Minister of our Church, who may look upon it as his duty to warn his parishioners, or an author who may think it necessary to caution his readers against such Preachers or their doctrine, (enthusiastic Preachers, I suppose, such as he takes it for granted the Methodist Preachers are,) ought to be very careful to act with a christian spirit, and to advance nothing but with temper, charity, and truth.—Perhaps the following rules may be proper to be observed by them.

"1. Not to *blame* persons for doing that now which Scripture records holy men of old to have practised; lest, had they lived in those times, they should have condemned them also.

"2. Not to censure persons in *holy orders*, for teaching the same doctrines which are taught in the Scriptures and by our Church; lest they should ignorantly censure what they profess to defend.

"3. Not to censure any professed *members* of our Church who live good lives, for resorting to religious assemblies in private houses, to perform in society acts of divine worship; when the same seems to have been practised by the primitive Christians; and when, alas! there are so many parishes, where a person piously disposed has no opportunity of joining in the public service of our Church, more than one hour and a half in a week.

"4. Not to *condemn* those who are constant attendants on the Communion and Service of our Church, if they sometimes use other prayers in private assemblies; since the best Divines of our Church have composed and published many prayers that have not the sanction of public

authority; which implies a general consent that our Church has not made provision for every private occasion.

"5. Not to establish the power of *working miracles* as the great criterion of a divine mission; when Scripture teaches us, that the agreement of doctrines with truth, as taught in those Scriptures, is the only infallible rule.

"6. Not to drive any away from our *Church*, by opprobriously calling them *Dissenters*, or treating them as such, so long as they keep to her Communion.

"7. Not lightly to take up with *silly stories* that may be propagated, to the discredit of persons of a general good character.

"I do not lay down (says he) these *negative rules* so much for the sake of any persons whom the unobservance of them would immediately injure, as of our Church and her professed defenders. For Churchmen, however well meaning, would lay themselves open to censure, and might do her irretrievable damage, by a behaviour contrary to them."

Friday, August 3. I met with one who *did* run well, but Satan had hindered her. I was surprised at her ingenuous acknowledgment of the fear of man. "O how hardly shall [even] they who have rich [acquaintance] enter into the kingdom of heaven!"

Sun. 5. Six persons at the New-Room were deeply convinced of sin; three of whom were a little comforted by prayer, but not yet convinced of righteousness.

Having frequently been invited to Wells, particularly by Mr. —, who begged me to make his house my home, on Thursday the 9th, I went thither, and wrote him word the night before; upon which he presently went to one of his friends, and desired a messenger might be sent to meet me and beg me "To turn back, otherwise (said he) we shall lose all our trade." But this consideration did not weigh with him, so that he invited me to his own house; and at eleven I preached in his ground, on "Christ our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption," to about 2000 persons. Some of them mocked at first, whom I reproved before all; and those of them who stayed were more serious. Several spoke to me after, who were for the present much affected. O let it not pass away as the morning dew!

Fri. 10. I had the satisfaction of conversing with a Quaker, and afterwards with an Anabaptist, who, I trust,

218 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

have had a large measure of the love of God shed abroad in their hearts. O may those, in every persuasion, who are of this spirit, increase a thousand-fold, how many so ever they be!

Sat. 11. In the evening two were seized with strong pangs, as were four the next evening, and the same number at Gloucester-Lane on Monday, one of whom was greatly comforted.

Tues. 14. I preached at Bradford to about three thousand, on "One thing is needful." Returning through Bath, I preached to a small congregation suddenly gathered together at a little distance from the town, (not being permitted to be in R—— M——'s ground any more,) on, "The just shall live by faith." Three at the New-Room this evening were cut to the heart; but their wound was not as yet healed.

Wed. 15. I endeavoured to guard those who were in their first love, from falling into inordinate affection, by explaining those strange words at Baptist-Mills, "Henceforth know we no man after the flesh."

Fri. 17. Many of our Society met, as we had appointed, at one in the afternoon, and agreed, "That all the members of our Society should obey the Church, to which we belong, by observing all Fridays in the year as days of fasting or abstinence." We likewise agreed, that as many as had opportunity should then meet, to spend an hour together in prayer.

Wed. 22. I was with many that were in heaviness; two of whom were soon filled with peace and joy. In the afternoon I endeavoured to guard the weak against what too often occasions heaviness, levity of temper or behaviour, from "I said of laughter it is mad; and of mirth, What doeth it?"

Mon. 27. For two hours I took up my cross, in arguing with a zealous man, and labouring to convince him, "That I was not an enemy to the Church of England." He allowed, "I taught no other doctrines than those of the Church;" but could not forgive my teaching them out of the church walls. He allowed, too, (which none indeed can deny, who has either any regard to truth, or sense of shame,) that, "by this teaching, many souls who till that time were perishing for lack of knowledge, have been, and are, brought from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God." But, he added, "No one

can tell what may be hereafter; and therefore, I say, these things ought not to be suffered."

Indeed the report now current in Bristol was, "That I was a Papist, if not a Jesuit." Some added, "That I was born and bred at Rome;" which many cordially believed. O ye fools, when will ye understand that the preaching justification by faith alone, the allowing no meritorious cause of justification but the death and righteousness of Christ, and no conditional or instrumental cause but faith, is overturning Popery from the foundation? When will ye understand, that the most destructive of all those errors, which Rome, the mother of abominations, hath brought forth, (compared to which transubstantiation and a hundred more, are "trifles light as air,"), is, "That we are justified by works," or, (to express the same thing a little more decently,) by faith and works. Now, do I preach this? I did for ten years; I was (fundamentally) a Papist, and knew it not. But I do now testify to all, (and it is the very point for asserting which I have to this day been called in question,) that "no good works can be done before justification, none which have not in them the nature of sin."

I have often inquired, who are the authors of this report; and have generally found they were either bigoted Dissenters, or (I speak without fear or favour) Ministers of our own Church. I have also frequently considered, what possible ground or motive they could have thus to speak; seeing few men in the world have had occasion so clearly and openly to declare their principles as I have done, both by preaching, printing, and conversation, for several years last past. And I can no otherwise think, than that either they spoke thus (to put the most favourable construction upon it) from gross ignorance: they knew not what Popery was; they knew not what doctrines those are which the Papists teach; or they wilfully spoke what they knew to be false, probably thinking thereby to do God service. Now, take this to yourselves, whosoever ye are, high or low, Dissenters or Churchmen, Clergy or Laity, who have advanced this shameless charge, and digest it how you can.

But how have ye not been afraid, if ye believe there is a God, and that he knoweth the secrets of your hearts, (I speak now to you Preachers more especially, of whatever denomination,) to declare so gross, palpable a lie, in

the name of the God of truth? I cite you all, before the Judge of all the earth, either publicly to prove your charge, or, by publicly retracting it, to make the best amends you can, to God, to me, and to the world.

For the full satisfaction of those who have been abused by these shameless men, and almost brought to believe a lie, I will here add my serious judgment concerning the Church of Rome, wrote some time since to a Priest of that communion.

SIR,—I return you thanks both for the favour of your letter, and for your recommending my father's proposals to the Sorbonne.

I have neither time nor inclination for controversy with any; but least of all with the Romanists: and that, both because I cannot trust any of their quotations, without consulting every sentence they quote in the originals; and because the originals themselves can very hardly be trusted, in any of the points controverted between them and us. I am no stranger to their skill in mending those authors, who did not at first speak home to their purpose; as also in purging them from those passages which contradicted their emendations. And as they have not wanted opportunity to do this, so doubtless they have carefully used it, with regard to a point that so nearly concerned them as the supremacy of the Bishop of Rome. I am not therefore surprised, if the works of St. Cyprian (as they are called) do strenuously maintain it; but I am, that they have not been better corrected; for they still contain passages that absolutely overthrow it. What gross negligence was it to leave his 74th Epistle (to Pompeianus) out of the Index Expurgatorius, wherein Pope Cyprian so flatly charges Pope Stephen with pride and obstinacy, and with being a defender of the cause of Heretics, and that against Christians and the very Church of God? He that can reconcile this with his believing Stephen the infallible Head of the Church, may reconcile the Gospel with the Koran.

Yet I can by no means approve the scurrility and contempt with which the Romanists have often been treated. I dare not rail at, or despise any man; much less those who profess to believe in the same Master. But I pity them much; having the same assurance, that Jesus is the Christ, and that no Romanist can expect to be saved,

according to the terms of his covenant. For thus saith our Lord, "Whosoever shall break one of the least of these commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven;" and, "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." But all Romanists, as such, do both. Ergo—

The minor I prove, not from Protestant authors, or even from particular writers of their own communion; but from the public authentic records of the Church of Rome. Such are the Canons and decrees of the council of Trent. And the edition I use was printed at Colen, and approved by authority.

And, first. All Romanists as such, do break and teach men to break, one (and not the least) of those commandments; the words of which, concerning images, are these,—

לֹא תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם

Now שָׁחָה (as every smatterer in Hebrew knows) is, *incurvare se*,¹ *procumbere*, *honoris exhibendi causâ*, (and is accordingly rendered by the Seventy in this very place, by a Greek word of the very same import, *προσκυνεῖν*; but the council of Trent (and consequently all Romanists, as such, all who allow the authority of that council) teaches, section 25, paragraph 2, That it is, *Legitimus imaginum usus*,—*eis honorem exhibere*, *procumbendo coram eis*.²

Secondly, All Romanists, as such, do add to those things which are written in the Book of Life. For in the bull of Pius IV., subjoined to those canons and decrees, I find all the additions following:—

1. Seven Sacraments, 2. Transubstantiation, 3. Communion in one kind only, 4. Purgatory, and praying for the dead therein, 5. Praying to saints, 6. Veneration of relics, 7. Worship of images, 8. Indulgences, 9. The priority and universality of the Roman Church, 10. The supremacy of the Bishop of Rome. All these things therefore do the Romanists add to those which are written in the Book of Life.

I am, —

Tues. 28. My mouth was opened, and my heart enlarged, strongly to declare to above two thousand people

¹ To bow down before anyone, in token of honouring him.

² i.e. The proper use of images is, to honour them, by bowing down before them.

222 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

at Bradford, "That the kingdom of God (within us) is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." At Bath I once more offered Christ to "justify the ungodly." In the evening I met my brother, just come from London. "The Lord hath indeed done great things for us already. Not unto us, but unto thy name be the praise."

Wed. 22. I rode with my brother to Wells, and preached on, "What must I do to be saved?" In the evening I summed up at the New-Room, what I had said at many times, from the beginning, of faith, holiness, and good works, as the root, the tree, and the fruit, which God had joined, and man ought not to put asunder.

Fri. Aug. 31. I left Bristol, and reached London about eight on Sunday morning. In the afternoon I heard a Sermon, wherein it was asserted, that our repentance was not sincere but feigned and hypocritical; 1. If we relapsed into sin soon after repenting; especially, if 2. We did not avoid all occasions of sin; or if 3. We relapsed frequently; and most of all, if 4. Our hearts were hardened thereby. O what a hypocrite was I, (if this be so,) for near twice ten years! But I know it is not so. I know every one under the law is even as I was. Every one, when he begins to see his fallen state, and to feel the wrath of God abiding on him, relapses into the sin that most easily besets him, soon after repenting of it. Sometimes he avoids, and at many other times cannot persuade himself to avoid the occasions of it; hence his relapses are frequent, and of consequence his heart is hardened more and more; and yet all this time he is sincerely striving against sin. He can say unfeignedly, without hypocrisy the thing which I do I approve not; the evil which I would not, that I do. To will is even then present with him; but how to perform that which is good he finds not. Nor can he with all his sincerity avoid any one of these four marks of hypocrisy, till, "being justified by faith, he hath peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

This helpless state I took occasion to describe at Kennington, to eight or ten thousand people, from those words of the Psalmist: "Innumerable troubles are come about me; my sins have taken such hold upon me, that I am not able to look up; yea, they are more in number than the hairs of my head, and my heart hath failed me."

Mon. Sept. 3. I talked largely with my mother, who told me, that till a short time since, she had scarce heard such a thing mentioned, as the having forgiveness of sins now, or God's Spirit bearing witness with our spirit; much less did she imagine, that this was the common privilege of all true believers. "Therefore, (said she,) I never durst ask it for myself. But two or three weeks ago, while my son Hall was pronouncing those words, in delivering the cup to me, 'The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee;' the words struck through my heart, and I knew God, for Christ's sake, had forgiven me all my sins."

I asked, whether her father (Dr. Annesley) had not the same faith? And whether she had not heard him preach it to others? She answered, "He had it himself, and declared, a little before his death, that for more than forty years he had no darkness, no fear, no doubt at all, of his being 'accepted in the Beloved.' But that nevertheless, she did not remember to have heard him preach, no, not once, explicitly upon it; whence she supposed he also looked upon it as the peculiar blessing of a few, not as promised to all the people of God."

Both at Mr. B——'s at six, and at Dowgate-Hill at eight, were many more than the houses could contain. Several persons who were then convinced of sin, came to me the next morning. One came also, who had been mourning long, and earnestly desired us to pray with her. We had scarce begun, when the enemy began to tear her so that she screamed out as in the pangs of death: but his time was short; for within a quarter of an hour she was full of the peace that passeth all understanding."

I afterwards called on Mrs. E——r, with whom was one, lately come from Bristol, in deep anguish of spirit. We cried to God, and He soon declared his salvation, so that both their mouths were filled with his praise.

Thence I went to a poor woman, who had been long in despair. I was glad to meet with Mrs. R—— there; the person mentioned in Mr. Whitefield's journal, who, after three years' madness, (so called,) was so deeply convinced of sin at Beach-Lane, and soon after rejoiced in God her Saviour.

Thur. 6. I was sent for by one who began to feel herself a sinner; but a fine lady unexpectedly coming in, there was scarce room for me to speak. The fourth

person in the company, was a poor, unbred girl; who, beginning to tell what God had done for her soul, the others looked one at another, as in amaze, but did not open their mouths. I then exhorted them, not to cease from crying to God, till they could say as she did, "My Beloved is mine, and I am his: I am as sure of it as that I am alive; for his Spirit bears witness with my spirit, that I am a child of God."

Sun. 9. I declared to about ten thousand in Moorfields, what they must do to be saved. My mother went with us about five to Kennington, where were supposed to be twenty thousand people. I again insisted on that foundation of all our hope, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved." From Kennington I went to a Society at Lambeth. The house being filled, the rest stood in the garden. The deep attention they showed gave me a good hope that they will not all be forgetful hearers.

Thence I went to our Society at Fetter-Lane, and exhorted them to love one another. The want of love was a general complaint: we laid it open before our Lord; we soon found he had sent us an answer of peace; evil surmisings vanished away. The flame kindled again as at the first, and our hearts were knit together.

Mon. 10. I accepted a pressing invitation to go to Plaistow. At five in the evening I expounded there, and at eight again; but most of the hearers were very quiet and unconcerned. In the morning, therefore, I spoke stronger words. But it is only the voice of the Son of God which is able to wake the dead.

Wed. 12. In the evening, at Fetter-Lane, I described the life of faith, and many, who had fancied themselves strong therein, found they were no more than new-born babes. At eight I exhorted our brethren to keep close to the Church, and to all the ordinances of God, and to aim only at living "a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty."

Thur. 13. A serious clergyman desired to know, in what points we differed from the Church of England? I answered, "To the best of my knowledge, in none; the doctrines we preach, are the doctrines of the Church of England; indeed, the fundamental doctrines of the Church, clearly laid down, both in her prayers, articles, and homilies."

He asked, in what points then do you differ from the

other clergy of the Church of England? I answered, "In none from that part of the clergy who adhere to the doctrines of the Church; but from that part of the clergy who dissent from the Church, (though they own it not,) I differ in the points following:—

First, They speak of justification, either as the same thing with sanctification, or as something consequent upon it. I believe justification to be wholly distinct from sanctification, and necessarily antecedent to it.

Secondly, They speak of our own holiness, or good works, as the cause of our justification; or, that for the sake of which, on account of which we are justified before God. I believe, neither our own holiness nor good works, are any part of the cause of our justification; but that the death and righteousness of Christ are the whole and sole cause of it; or, that for the sake of which, on account of which, we are justified before God.

Thirdly, They speak of good works, as a condition of justification, necessarily previous to it. I believe no good work can be previous to justification, nor consequently a condition of it; but that we are justified (being till that hour ungodly, and therefore incapable of doing any good work) by faith alone, faith without works, faith (though producing all, yet) including no good work.

Fourthly, They speak of sanctification, (or holiness,) as if it were an outward thing; as if it consisted chiefly, if not wholly, in those two points, 1. The doing no harm, 2. The doing good, (as it is called,) i.e. The using the means of grace, and helping our neighbour.

I believe it to be an inward thing, namely, The life of God in the soul of man; a participation of the divine nature; the mind that was in Christ; or, the renewal of our heart, after the image of Him that created us.

Lastly, They speak of the new birth as an outward thing, as if it were no more than baptism; or, at most, a change from outward wickedness to outward goodness; from a vicious to (what is called) a virtuous life. I believe it to be an inward thing; a change from inward wickedness to inward goodness; an entire change of our inmost nature from the image of the Devil, (wherein we are born,) to the image of God: a change from the love of the creature, to the love of the Creator; from earthly and sensual, to heavenly and holy affections: in a word, a

change from the tempers of the spirits of darkness, to those of the angels of God in Heaven.

There is, therefore, a wide, essential, fundamental, irreconcilable difference between us; so that if they speak the truth as it is in Jesus, I am found a false witness before God. But if I teach the way of God in truth, they are blind leaders of the blind.

Sun. 16. I preached at Moorfields to about ten thousand, and at Kennington Common to, I believe, near twenty thousand, on those words of the calmer Jews to St. Paul, "We desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest; for as concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against." At both places I described the real difference between what is generally called Christianity, and the true old Christianity, which, under the new name of Methodism, is now also everywhere spoken against.

Mon. 17. I preached again at Plaistow, on, "Blessed are those that mourn." It pleased God to give us in that hour, two living instances of that piercing sense both of the guilt and power of sin, that dread of the wrath of God, and that full conviction of man's inability either to remove the power, or atone for the guilt of sin, (called by the world despair,) in which properly consist that poverty of spirit and mourning which are the gate of Christian blessedness.

Tues. 18. A young woman came to us at Islington, in such an agony as I have seldom seen. Her sorrow and fear were too big for utterance; so that after a few words, her strength as well as her heart failing, she sunk down to the ground. Only her sighs and her groans showed she was yet alive. We cried unto God in her behalf; we claimed the promises made to the weary and heavy-laden; and he did not cast out our prayer. She saw her Saviour, as it were, crucified before her eyes: she laid hold on him by faith, and her spirit revived.

At Mr. B——'s at six, I was enabled earnestly to call all the weary and heavy-laden; and at Mr. C——'s at eight, when many roared aloud; some of whom utterly refused to be comforted, till they should feel their souls at rest in the blood of the Lamb, and have his love shed abroad in their hearts.

Thur. 20. Mrs. C——, being in deep heaviness, had desired me to meet her this afternoon. She had long earnestly desired to receive the Holy Communion, having

an unaccountably strong persuasion, "That God would manifest himself to her therein, and give rest to her soul." But her heaviness being now greatly increased, Mr. D—e gave her that fatal advice, "Not to communicate till she had living faith." This still added to her perplexity; yet at length she resolved to obey God rather than man; and "He was made known unto her in breaking of bread." In that moment she felt her load removed, she knew she was accepted in the Beloved, and all the time I was expounding at Mr. B——'s, was full of that peace which cannot be uttered.

Fri. 21. Another of Dr. Monro's patients came to desire my advice. I found no reason to believe she had been any otherwise mad than every one is, who is deeply convinced of sin; and I cannot doubt, but if she will trust in the living God, He will "give medicine to heal her sickness."

Sun. 23. I declared to about ten thousand, in Moorfields, with great enlargement of spirit, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." At Kennington I enforced to about twenty thousand, that great truth, "One thing is needful." Thence I went to Lambeth, and showed (to the amazement, it seemed, of many who were present) how "he that is born of God doth not commit sin."

Mon. 24. I preached once more at Plaistow, and took my leave of the people of that place. In my return, a person galloping swiftly, rode full against me, and overthrew both man and horse; but without any hurt to either. Glory be to Him who "saves both man and beast!"

Tues. 25. After dining with one of our brethren who was married this day, I went (as usual) to the Society at St. James's, weary and weak in body. But God strengthened me for his own work; as He did at six at Mr. B——'s; and at eight in Winchester-yard, where it was believed were present eleven or twelve hundred persons; to whom I declared, if "they had nothing to pay, God would frankly forgive them all."

Thur. 27. I went in the afternoon to a Society at Deptford, and thence at six came to Turner's-Hall; which holds (by computation) two thousand persons. The press both within and without was very great. In the beginning of the expounding, there being a large vault beneath, the main beam which supported the floor broke. The floor

228 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

immediately sunk, which occasioned much noise and confusion among the people. But, two or three days before, a man had filled the vault with hogshheads of tobacco; so that the floor, after sinking a foot or two, rested upon them, and I went on without interruption.

Fri. 28. I met with a fresh proof, that "whatsoever ye ask, believing, ye shall receive." A middle-aged woman desired me to return thanks for her to God, who, as many witnesses then present testified, was, a day or two before, really distracted, and as such tied down in her bed. But upon prayer made for her, she was instantly relieved, and restored to a sound mind.

Mon. Oct. 1. I rode to Oxford, and found a few who had not yet forsaken the assembling themselves together; to whom I explained that "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord."

Tues. 2. I went to many, who once heard the word with joy; but "when the sun arose, the seed withered away." Yet some still desired to follow their Lord. But the world stood fawning or threatening between them. In the evening I showed them the tender mercies of God, and his readiness still to receive them. The tears ran down many of their cheeks. O thou lover of souls, seek and save that which is lost!

Wed. 3. I had a little leisure to take a view of the shattered condition of things here. The poor prisoners, both in the castle and in the city prison, had now none that cared for their souls, none to instruct, advise, comfort, and build them up in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus. None was left to visit the Workhouses, where also we used to meet with the most moving objects of compassion. Our little school, where about twenty poor children at a time had been taught for many years, was on the point of being broke up; there being none now, either to support or to attend it. And most of those in the town, who were once knit together, and strengthened one another's hands in God, were torn asunder and scattered abroad. "It is time for thee, Lord, to lay to thy hand!"

At eleven, a little company of us met to entreat God "for the remnant that was left." He immediately gave us a token for good. One who had been long in the gall of bitterness, full of wrath, strife and envy, particularly against one whom she had once tenderly loved, rose up

and showed the change God had wrought in her soul, by falling upon her neck, and with many tears kissing her. The same spirit we found reviving in others also; so that we left them, not without hope, that the seed which had been sown even here, "shall take root downward, and bear fruit upward."

About six in the evening I came to Burford; and at seven preached to, it was judged, twelve or fifteen hundred people, on "Christ made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." Finding many approved of what they had heard, that they might not rest in that approbation, I explained, an hour or two after, the holiness of a Christian; and in the morning I showed the way to this holiness, by giving both the false and the true answer to that important question, "What must I do to be saved?"

About three in the afternoon, I came to Mr. Benjamin Seward's, at Bengeworth, near Evesham. At five I expounded in his house, (part of the 13th chapter of the First of Corinthians,) and at seven in the School-house, where I invited all who had nothing to pay, to come and accept of free forgiveness. In the morning I preached near Mr. Seward's house, to a small serious congregation, on those words: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

In the evening I reached Gloucester. Saturday, 6th, at five in the evening, I explained to about a thousand people, the nature, the cause, and the condition or instrument of justification, from these words: "To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted to him for righteousness."

Sun. 7. A few, I trust, out of two or three thousand, were awakened by the explanation of those words, "God hath not given unto you the spirit of bondage again to fear; but he hath given unto you the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." About eleven I preached at Runwick, seven miles from Gloucester. The church was much crowded, though a thousand or upwards stayed in the church-yard. In the afternoon I explained further the same words, "What must I do to be saved?" I believe some thousand were then present, more than had been in the morning. O what a harvest is here! When will it please our Lord to send more labourers into his harvest?

Between five and six I called on all who were present (about three thousand) at Stanley, on a little Green near the town, to accept of Christ, as their only "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." I was strengthened to speak as I never did before, and continued speaking near two hours: the darkness of the night, and a little lightening not lessening the number, but increasing the seriousness, of the hearers. I concluded the day by expounding part of our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, to a small serious company at Ebly.

Mon. 8. About eight I reached Hampton-Common, nine or ten miles from Gloucester. There were, it was computed, five or six thousand persons. I exhorted them all to come unto God, as having nothing to pay. I could gladly have stayed longer with this loving people; but I was now straitened for time. After sermon I therefore hastened away, and in the evening came to Bristol.

Tues. 9. My brother and I rode to Bradford. Finding there had been a general misrepresentation of his last sermon, as if he had asserted reprobation therein, whereby many were greatly offended, he was constrained to explain himself on that head, and to show in plain and strong words, that God "willeth all men to be saved." Some were equally offended at this: but whether men will hear or whether they will forbear, we may not "shun to declare unto them all the counsel of God."

At our return in the evening, not being permitted to meet at Weaver's-Hall, we met in a large room on Temple-Backs, where (having gone through the Sermon on the Mount, and the Epistles of St. John) I began that of St. James, that those who had already learned the true nature of inward holiness, might be more fully instructed in outward holiness, without which also we cannot see the Lord.

Wed. 10. Finding many to be in heaviness, whom I had left full of peace and joy, I exhorted them at Baptist-Mills, to "look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." We poured out our complaint before him in the evening, and found that he was again with us of a truth. One came to us soon after I was gone home, who was still in grievous darkness; but we commended her cause to God, and he immediately restored the light of his countenance.

Thur. 11. We were comforted by the coming in of one

who was a notorious drunkard and common swearer; but he is washed, and old things are passed away: "such power belongeth unto God." In the evening our Lord rose on many who were wounded, "with healing in his wings;" and others who, till then, were careless and at ease, felt the two-edged sword that cometh out of his mouth.

One of these showed the agony of her soul by crying aloud to God for help, to the great offence of many, who eagerly "rebuked her that she should hold her peace." She continued in great torment all night, finding no rest either of soul or body; but while a few were praying for her in the morning, God delivered her out of her distress.

Fri. 12. We had fresh occasion to observe the darkness which was fallen on many who lately rejoiced in God; but he did not long hide his face from them. On Wednesday the spirit of many revived: on Thursday evening many more found Him in whom they had believed, to be "a present help in time of trouble." And never do I remember the power of God to have been more eminently present than this morning, when a cloud of witnesses declared his "breaking the gates of brass, and smiting the bars of iron in sunder."

Yet I could not but be under some concern, with regard to one or two persons who were tormented in an unaccountable manner, and seemed to be indeed lunatic, as well as sore vexed; but while I was musing what would be the issue of these things, the answer I received from the word of God was, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men."

Soon after I was sent for to one of those, who was so strangely torn by the Devil, that I almost wondered her relations did not say, "Much religion hath made thee mad." We prayed God to bruise Satan under her feet. Immediately we had the petition we asked of him: she cried out vehemently, "He is gone, he is gone!" and was filled with the spirit of love and of a sound mind. I have seen her many times since, strong in the Lord. When I asked abruptly, "What do you desire now?" she answered, "Heaven." I asked, "What is in your heart?" she replied, "God." I asked, "But how is your heart when any thing provokes you?" She said, "By the grace of God, I am not provoked at any thing; all the things of this world pass by me as shadows." "Ye have seen the

end of the Lord." Is he not very pitiful and of tender mercy?

We had a refreshing meeting, at one, with many of our Society; who fail not to observe, as health permits, the weekly fast of our Church, and will do so, by God's help, as long as they call themselves members of it. And would to God, all who contend for the rites and ceremonies of the Church, (perhaps with more zeal than meekness of wisdom,) would first show their own regard for her discipline, in this more important branch of it!

At four I preached near the Fish-Ponds, (at the desire of one who had long laboured under the apprehension of it,) on the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost; that is, according to the plain scriptural account, the openly and maliciously asserting, that the miracles of Christ were wrought by the power of the Devil.

Sat. 13. I was with one, who being in deep anguish of spirit, had been the day before to ask a clergyman's advice. He told her, "Her head was out of order; and she must go and take physic." In the evening, we called upon God for medicine, to heal those that were broken in heart; and five, who had long been in the shadow of death, "knew they were passed from death unto life."

The sharp frost in the morning, Sunday, 14, did not prevent about 1500 from being at Hannam, to whom I called, in the words of our gracious Master, "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." In the evening we claimed and received the promise for several who were "weary and heavy-laden."

Mon. 15. Upon a pressing invitation, some time since received, I set out for Wales. About four in the afternoon, I preached on a little green, at the foot of the Devauden, (a high hill, two or three miles beyond Chepstow,) to three or four hundred plain people, on "Christ our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." After sermon, one who I trust is an old disciple of Christ, willingly received us into his house: whither many following, I showed them their need of a Saviour, from these words: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." In the morning I described more fully the way to salvation; "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved;" and then, taking leave of my friendly host, before two, came to Abergavenny.

I felt in myself a strong aversion to preaching here.

However, I went to Mr. W——, (the person in whose ground Mr. Whitefield preached,) to desire the use of it. He said, "With all his heart, if the Minister was not willing to let me have the use of the church;" after whose refusal, (for I wrote a line to him immediately,) he invited me to his house. About a thousand people stood patiently, (though the frost was sharp, it being after sunset,) while, from Acts xxviii. 22, I simply described the plain, old religion of the Church of England, which is now almost every where spoken against, under the new name of Methodism. An hour after, I explained it a little more fully, in a neighbouring house, showing how "God had exalted Jesus to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and remission of sins."

Wed. 15. The frost was sharper than before. However, five or six hundred people stayed, while I explained the nature of that salvation which is through faith, yea, faith alone; and the nature of that living faith, through which cometh this salvation. About noon I came to Usk, where I preached to a small company of poor people, on these words: "The Son of man is come to save that which is lost." One grey-headed man wept and trembled exceedingly; and another who was there, (I have since heard,) as well as two or three who were at the Devauden, are gone quite distracted; that is, they mourn, and refuse to be comforted, till they "have redemption through his blood."

When I came to Ponty-Pool, in the afternoon, being unable to procure any more convenient place, I stood in the street, and cried aloud to five or six hundred attentive hearers, to "believe in the Lord Jesus, that they might be saved." In the evening I showed his willingness to save all who desire to come unto God through Him. Many were melted into tears. It may be that some will "bring forth fruit with patience."

Thur. 18. I endeavoured to cut them off from all false supports and vain dependencies, by explaining and applying that fundamental truth, "To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted to him for righteousness."

When we were at the Devauden on Monday, a poor woman, who lived six miles off, came thither in great heaviness. She was deeply convinced of sin, and weary of it; but found no way to escape from it. She walked

from thence to Abergavenny on Tuesday, and on Wednesday from Abergavenny to Usk. Thence, in the afternoon, she came to Ponty-Pool, where, between twelve and one in the morning, after a sharp contest in her soul, our Lord got unto himself the victory; and the love of God was shed abroad in her heart. Knowing that her sins were forgiven her, she went on her way rejoicing to Cardiff, whither I came in the afternoon; and about five (the Minister not being willing that I should preach in the church on a week-day) I preached in the Shire Hall, (a large convenient place) on, "Believe, and thou shalt be saved." Several were there who laboured much to make a disturbance; but our Lord suffered them not. At seven I explained to a much more numerous audience the blessedness of mourning and poverty of spirit. Deep attention sat on the faces of the hearers, many of whom, I trust, "have believed our report."

Fri. 19. I preached in the morning at Newport, on, "What must I do to be saved?" to the most insensible, ill-behaved people I have ever seen in Wales. One ancient man, during a great part of the sermon, cursed and swore almost incessantly; and, towards the conclusion, took up a great stone, which he many times attempted to throw; but that he could not do.—Such the champions, such the arms, against field-preaching!

At four I preached at the Shire Hall of Cardiff again, where many gentry I found were present. Such freedom of speech I have seldom had as was given me in explaining those words: "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." At six almost the whole town (I was informed) came together, to whom I explained the six last beatitudes; but my heart was so enlarged I knew not how to give over, so that we continued three hours. O may the seed they have received have its fruits unto holiness, and in the end everlasting life!

Sat. 20. I returned to Bristol. I have seen no part of England so pleasant for sixty or seventy miles together, as those parts of Wales I have been in. And most of the inhabitants are indeed ripe for the Gospel: I mean, (if the expression appear strange,) they are earnestly desirous of being instructed in it; and as utterly ignorant of it they are as any Creek or Cherikee Indians. I do not mean they are ignorant of the name of Christ. Many of them

can say both the Lord's Prayer and the Belief; nay, and some, all the Catechism: but take them out of the road of what they have learned by rote, and they know no more (nine in ten of those with whom I conversed) either of Gospel salvation, or of that faith whereby alone we can be saved, than Chicali or Tomo Chachi. Now, what spirit is he of who had rather these poor creatures should perish for lack of knowledge, than that they should be saved, even by the exhortations of Howell Harris, or an itinerant Preacher?

Finding a slackness creeping in among them who had begun to run well, on Sunday, 21, both in the morning and afternoon, I enforced those words: "As ye have received the Lord Jesus Christ, so walk ye in him." In the evening I endeavoured to quicken them farther, by describing pure and undefiled religion; and the next day, to encourage them in pursuing it, by enforcing those words of our blessed Master: "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Tues. 23. In riding to Bradford, I read over Mr. Law's book on the New Birth: philosophical, speculative, precarious; Behmenish, void and vain!

O what a fall is there!

At eleven I preached at Bearfield to about three thousand, on the spirit of nature, of bondage, and of adoption.

Returning in the evening, I was exceedingly pressed to go back to a young woman in Kingswood. (The fact I nakedly relate, and leave every man to his own judgment of it.) I went. She was nineteen or twenty years old, but (it seems) could not write or read. I found her on the bed, two or three persons holding her. It was a terrible sight. Anguish, horror, and despair, above all description, appeared in her pale face. The thousand distortions of her whole body showed how the dogs of hell were gnawing her heart. The shrieks intermixed were scarce to be endured; but her stony eyes could not weep. She screamed out, as soon as words could find their way, "I am damned, damned; lost for ever. Six days ago you might have helped me; but it is past. I am the Devil's now; I have given myself to him. His I am; him I must serve; with him I must go to hell. I will be his; I will serve him; I will go with him to hell; I cannot be saved;

236 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

I will not be saved; I must, I will, I will be damned." She then began praying to the Devil. We began,

"Arm of the Lord, awake, awake!"

She immediately sunk down as asleep; but, as soon as we left off, broke out again with inexpressible vehemence: "Stony hearts, break! I am a warning to you. Break, break, poor stony hearts! Will you not break? What can be done more for stony hearts? I am damned that you may be saved. Now break, now break, poor stony hearts! You need not be damned, though I must." She then fixed her eyes on the corner of the ceiling, and said, "There he is, aye, there he is; come, good Devil, come; take me away. You said you would dash my brains out; come, do it quickly. I am yours; I will be yours. Come just now; take me away." We interrupted her by calling again upon God; on which she sunk down as before; and another young woman began to roar out as loud as she had done. My brother now came in, it being about nine o'clock. We continued in prayer till past eleven, when God in a moment spoke peace into the soul, first of the first tormented, and then of the other; and they both joined in singing praise to him, who had stilled the enemy and the avenger.

Wed. 24. I preached at Baptist-Mills on those words of St. Paul, speaking in the person of one "under the law;" (that is, still "carnal, and sold under sin," though groaning for deliverance:) "I know that in me dwelleth no good thing." A poor woman told me afterwards, "I does hope as my husband won't hinder me any more; for I minded he did shiver every bone of him, and the tears ran down his cheeks like the rain." I warned our little Society, in the evening, to beware of levity, slackness in good works, and despising little things; which had caused many to fall again into bondage.

Thur. 25. I was sent for to one in Bristol, who was taken ill the evening before. (This fact, too, I will simply relate, so far as I was an ear or eye-witness of it.) She lay on the ground, furiously gnashing her teeth, and after a while roared aloud. It was not easy for three or four persons to hold her, especially when the name of Jesus was named. We prayed; the violence of her symptoms ceased, though without a complete deliverance.

In the evening, being sent for to her again, I was

unwilling, indeed afraid to go; thinking it would not avail unless some who were strong in faith were to wrestle with God for her. I opened my Testament on those words: "I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth." I stood reprovèd and went immediately. She began screaming before I came into the room; then broke out into a horrid laughter, mixed with blasphemy grievous to hear. One who, from many circumstances, apprehended a preternatural agent to be concerned in this, asking, "How dost thou dare to enter into a Christian?" was answered, "She is not a Christian; she is mine."—*Q.* "Dost thou not tremble at the name of Jesus?" No words followed, but she shrunk back and trembled exceedingly. *Q.* "Art thou not increasing thy own damnation?" It was faintly answered, "Aye, aye;" which was followed by fresh cursing and blaspheming.

My brother coming in, she cried out, "Preacher! Field-preacher! I don't love field-preaching." This was repeated two hours together, with spitting and all the expressions of strong aversion.

We left her at twelve, but called again about noon, on Friday, 27. And now it was that God showed he heareth the prayer. All her pangs ceased in a moment. She was filled with peace, and knew that the son of wickedness was departed from her.

Sat. 28. I was sent for to Kingswood again, to one of those who had been so ill before. A violent rain began just as I set out, so that I was thoroughly wet in a few minutes. Just at that time, the woman (then three miles off) cried out, "Yonder comes Wesley, galloping as fast as he can." When I was come, I was quite cold and dead, and fitter for sleep than prayer. She burst out into a horrid laughter, and said, "No power, no power; no faith, no faith. She is mine; her soul is mine. I have her, and will not let her go."

We begged of God to increase our faith. Meanwhile her pangs increased more and more; so that one would have imagined, by the violence of the throes, her body must have been shattered to pieces. One, who was clearly convinced this was no natural disorder, said, "I think Satan is let loose. I fear he will not stop here;" and added, "I command thee, in the name of the Lord Jesus, to tell if thou hast commission to torment any other soul?" It was immediately answered, "I have:

238 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

L—y C—r and S—h J—s;” (two who lived at some distance, and were then in perfect health.)

We betook ourselves to prayer again, and ceased not till she began, about six o'clock, with a clear voice, and composed, cheerful look,

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

Sun. 28. I preached once more at Bradford, at one in the afternoon. The violent rains did not hinder more, I believe, than ten thousand from earnestly attending to what I spoke on those solemn words: “I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men; for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Returning in the evening, I called at Mrs. J—’s, in Kingswood. S—y J—s and L—y C—r were there. It was scarce a quarter of an hour before L—y C—r fell into a strange agony, and presently after, S—y J—s. The violent convulsions all over their bodies was such as words cannot describe. Their cries and groans were too horrid to be borne; till one of them, in a tone not to be expressed, said, “Where is your faith now? Come, go to prayers; I will pray with you. ‘Our Father which art in heaven.’” We took the advice, from whomsoever it came, and poured out our souls before God, till L—y C—r’s agonies so increased, that it seemed she was in the pangs of death. But in a moment God spoke; she knew his voice, and both her body and soul were healed.

We continued in prayer till near one, when S—J—’s voice was also changed, and she began strongly to call upon God. This she did for the greatest part of the night. In the morning we renewed our prayers, while she was crying continually, “I burn, I burn; O what shall I do? I have a fire within me. I cannot bear it. Lord Jesus! Help!” Amen, Lord Jesus! When thy time is come.

Wed. 31. I strongly enforced on those who imagine they believe, and do not, “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” The power of God was in an unusual manner present at the meeting of the bands in the evening. Six or seven were deeply convinced of their unfaithfulness to God, and two filled again with his love; but poor Mary W— remained as

one without hope her soul refused comfort; she could neither pray herself, nor bear to hear us: at last she cried out, "Give me the book and I will sing." She began giving out line by line, (but with such an accent as art could never reach.)

"Why do these cares my soul divide,
If thou indeed hast set me free?
Why am I thus, if God hath died,
If God hath died to purchase me?
Around me clouds of darkness roll;
In deepest night I still walk on:
Heavily moves my *dammèd* soul——"

Here we were obliged to interrupt her; we again betook ourselves to prayer, and her heart was eased, though not set at liberty.

Thur. Nov. 1. I set out, and the next evening came to Reading, where a little company of us met in the evening; at which the zealous mob was so enraged, they were ready to tear the house down. Therefore I hope God has a work to do in this place. In thy time let it be fulfilled!

About this time I received a letter from the author of those reflections which I mentioned July 31; an extract of which I have subjoined.

REVEREND SIR,

As I wrote the Rules and Considerations, [in No. 25 of Country Common Sense,] with an eye to Mr. Whitefield, yourself, and your opposers, from a sincere desire to do some service to Christianity, according to the imperfect notions I had at that time of the real merits of the cause, I at the same time resolved to take any opportunity that should offer for my better information.

On this principle it was that I made one of your audience, October 23, at Bradford; and because I thought I could form the best judgment of you and your doctrines from your sermon, I resolved to hear that first; which was the reason, that although by accident, I was at the same house, and walked two miles with you to the place you preached at, I spoke little or nothing to you. I must confess, Sir, that the discourse you made that day, wherein you pressed your hearers in the closest manner, and with the authority of a true Minister of the Gospel, not to stop at Faith only, but to add to it all virtues, and to show forth their faith, by every kind of good works, convinced me of the great wrong done you by a public

report, common in people's mouth, that you preach Faith without Works; for that is the only ground of prejudice which any true Christian can have; and is the sense in which your adversaries would take your words, when they censure them: for that we are justified by faith only, is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, the doctrine of his Apostles, and the doctrine of the Church of England. I am ashamed, that after having lived twenty-nine years, since my baptism into this faith,—I should speak of it in the lame, unfaithful, I may say, false manner I have done, in the paper above-mentioned! What mere darkness is man, when truth hideth her face from him!

Man is by nature a sinner, the child of the Devil, under God's wrath, in a state of damnation. The Son of God took pity on this our misery; He made himself man, He made himself sin for us; that is, He hath borne the punishment of our sin, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by his stripes we are healed. To receive this boundless mercy, this inestimable benefit, we must have faith in our Benefactor, and through him in God.—But then, true faith is not a lifeless principle, as your adversaries seem to understand it. They and you mean quite another thing by faith. They mean, a bare believing that Jesus is the Christ. You mean, a living, growing, purifying principle, which is the root both of inward and outward holiness; both of purity and good works; without which no man can have faith, at least, no other than a dead faith.

This, Sir, you explained in your sermon at Bradford, Sunday, October 28, to near ten thousand people, who all stood to hear you, with awful silence and great attention. I have since reflected how much good the clergy might do, if, instead of shunning, they would come to hear and converse with you; and in their churches and parishes, would farther enforce those catholic doctrines which you preach; and which I am glad to see have such a surprising good effect on great numbers of souls.

I think, indeed, too many clergymen are culpable, in that they do not inform themselves better of Mr. Whitefield, yourself, and your doctrines, from your own mouths; I am persuaded, if they did this with a Christian spirit, the differences between you would soon be at an end. Nay, I think, those whose flocks resort so much to hear you, ought to do it, out of their pastoral duty to them;

that if you preach good doctrine, they may edify them on the impressions so visibly made by your sermons, or if evil, they may reclaim them from error.—

I shall conclude this letter with putting you in mind, in all your sermons, writings, and practice, nakedly to follow the naked Jesus: I mean, to preach the pure doctrine of the Gospel, without respect of persons or things. Many preachers, many Reformers, many Missionaries, have fallen by not observing this; by not having continually in mind, "Whoever shall break the least of these commandments, and teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven."

AN EXTRACT
OF THE
REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY'S JOURNAL,
FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1739, TO SEPTEMBER 3, 1741.

When I had waited, (for they spake not, but stood still and answered no more,) I said, I will answer also my part, I also will shew my opinion. Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles, in so doing my Maker would soon take me away. — Job xxxii. v. 16, 17, 21, 22.

IV.

TO THE MORAVIAN CHURCH,¹

MORE ESPECIALLY THAT PART OF IT NOW OR LATELY
RESIDING IN ENGLAND.

1. I AM constrained, at length, to speak my present sentiments concerning you, according to the best light I have; and this, not only upon my own account, that, if I judge amiss, I may receive better information, but for the sake of all those who either love or seek the Lord Jesus in sincerity. Many of these have been utterly at a loss how to judge; and the more so, because they could not but observe, (as I have often done with sorrow of heart,) that scarce any have wrote concerning you, (unless such as were extravagant in your commendation,) who were not evidently prejudiced against you. Hence, they either spoke falsely, laying to your charge things which you knew not; or, at least, unkindly, putting the worst construction on things of a doubtful nature, and setting what, perhaps, was not strictly right in the very worst

¹So called by themselves, though improperly.

light it would bear. Whereas, (in my apprehension,) none is capable of judging right, or assisting others to judge right, concerning you, unless he can speak of you as he does of the friend who is as his own soul.

2. Yet it is not wholly for their sake, but for your own also that I now write. It may be, the Father of lights, the giver of every good gift, may even, by a mean instrument, speak to your hearts. My continual desire and prayer to God is, that you may clearly see what is that good and perfect will of the Lord; and fully discern how to separate that which is precious among you from the vile.

3. I have delayed thus long, because I loved you, and was, therefore, unwilling to grieve you in any thing; and likewise because I was afraid of creating another obstacle to that union which (if I know my own heart in any degree) I desire above all things under heaven. But I dare no longer delay, lest my silence should be a snare to any others of the children of God; and lest you yourselves should be more confirmed in what I cannot reconcile to the law and the testimony. This would strengthen the bar which I long to remove; and were that once taken out of the way, I should rejoice to be a door-keeper in the house of God,—a hewer of wood or drawer of water among you. Surely I would follow you to the ends of the earth, or remain with you in the uttermost parts of the sea.

4. What unites my heart to you is, the excellency (in many respects) of the doctrine taught among you: your laying the true foundation, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself;" your declaring the free grace of God the cause, and faith the condition, of justification; your bearing witness to those great fruits of faith, "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost;" and that sure mark thereof, "He that is born of God doth not commit sin."

5. I magnify the grace of God which is in many among you, enabling you to love Him who hath first loved us; teaching you, in whatsoever state you are, therewith to be content; causing you to trample under foot the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life; and, above all, giving you to love one another in a manner the world knoweth not of.

6. I praise God that He hath delivered, and yet doth

deliver you from those outward sins that overspread the face of the earth. No cursing, no light or false swearing, no profaning the name of God, is heard among you. No robbery or theft, no gluttony or drunkenness, no whoredom or adultery, no quarrelling or brawling, (those scandals of the Christian name,) are found within your gates. No diversions but such as become saints, as may be used in the name of the Lord Jesus. You regard not outward adorning, but rather desire the ornament of a serious, meek, and quiet spirit. You are not slothful in business, but labour to eat your own bread; and wisely manage the mammon of unrighteousness, that ye may have to give to others also; to feed the hungry, and cover the naked with a garment.

7. I love and esteem you for your excellent discipline, scarce inferior to that of the apostolic age; for your due subordination of officers, every one knowing and keeping his proper rank; for your exact division of the people under your charge, so that each may be fed with food convenient for them; for your care that all who are employed in the service of the Church should frequently and freely confer together; and, in consequence thereof, your exact and seasonable knowledge of the state of every member; and your ready distribution either of spiritual or temporal relief, as every man hath need.

8. Perhaps, then, some of you will say, "If you allow all this, what more can you desire?" The following extract will answer you at large, wherein I have first given a naked relation (among other things) of many facts and conversations that passed between us in the same order of time as they occurred; and then summed up, what I cannot approve of yet, that it may be tried by the word of God.

9. This I have endeavoured to do with a tender hand; relating no more than I believed absolutely needful; carefully avoiding all tart and unkind expressions, all that I could foresee would be disobliging to you, or any farther offensive than was implied in the very nature of the thing; labouring every where to speak consistently with that deep sense which is settled in my heart, that you are (though I cannot call you Rabbi, infallible) yet far, far better and wiser than me.

10. And if any of you will smite me friendly, and reprove me; if you will show me wherein I have erred,

either in the matter or manner of the following relation, or any part thereof, I will, by the grace of God, confess it before angels and men, in whatsoever way you shall require.

Meanwhile do not cease to pray for

Your weak,

But still affectionate Brother,

JOHN WESLEY.

London, June 24, 1744.

JOURNAL,

FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1739, TO SEPTEMBER 3, 1741.

THURSDAY, November 1, 1739, I left Bristol, and on Saturday came to London. The first person I met with there was one whom I had left strong in faith and zealous of good works. But she now told me, "Mr. Molther had fully convinced her she never had any faith at all; and had advised her, till she received faith, to be still, ceasing from outward works; which she had accordingly done, and did not doubt but in a short time she should find the advantage of it."

In the evening Mr. Bray also was highly commending "the being still before the Lord." He likewise spoke largely of the great danger that attended the doing of outward works, and of the folly of people that keep running about to church and sacrament, as I (said he) did till very lately."

Sun. 4. Our Society met at seven in the morning, and continued silent till eight. One then spoke of looking unto Jesus, and exhorted us all "to lie still in his hand."

In the evening I met the women of our Society at Fetter-Lane, where some of our brethren strongly intimated, that none of them had any true faith; and then asserted in plain terms, 1. "That till they had true faith they ought to be still; that is, as they explained themselves, to abstain from the means of grace, as they are called; the Lord's Supper in particular." 2. "That the ordinances are not means of grace, there being no other means than Christ."

Wed. 7. Being greatly desirous to understand the ground of this matter, I had a long conference with Mr. Spangenberg. I agreed with all he said of the power of faith. I agreed that whosoever is by faith born of God doth not commit sin; but I could not agree either, "that none has any faith, so long as he is liable to any doubt or fear; or that, till we have it, we ought to abstain from the Lord's Supper, or the other ordinances of God."

At eight, our Society met at Fetter-Lane. We sat an hour without speaking. The rest of the time was spent in dispute; one having proposed a question concerning the Lord's Supper, which many warmly affirmed none ought to receive till he had the full assurance of faith.

I observed every day, more and more, the advantage Satan had gained over us. Many of those who once knew in whom they had believed were thrown into idle reasonings, and thereby filled with doubts and fears, from which they now found no way to escape. Many were induced to deny the gift of God, and affirm they never had any faith at all; especially those who had fallen again into sin, and of consequence into darkness. And almost all these had left off the means of grace, saying, "They must now cease from their own works; they must now trust in Christ alone; they were poor sinners, and had nothing to do but to lie at his feet."

Till Saturday, the 10th, I think I did not meet with one woman of the Society who had not been upon the point of casting away her confidence in God. I then, indeed, found one who, when many (according to their custom) laboured to persuade her she had no faith, replied, with a spirit they were not able to resist, "I know, that the life which I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me; and He has never left me one moment since the hour He was made known to me, in the breaking of bread."

What is to be inferred from this undeniable matter of fact,—one that had not faith received it in the Lord's Supper? Why, 1. that there are means of grace; i.e. outward ordinances, whereby the inward grace of God is ordinarily conveyed to man; whereby the faith that brings salvation is conveyed to them who before had it not;—2. That one of these means is the Lord's Supper;—and 3. That he who has not this faith ought to wait for it, in the use both of this and of the other means which God hath ordained.

Fri. 9. I showed how we are to examine ourselves, whether we be in the faith; and afterwards recommended to all, though especially to them that believed, true stillness; that is, a patient waiting upon God, by lowliness, meekness, and resignation, in all the ways of his holy law and the works of his commandments.

All this week I endeavoured also, by private conversation, to comfort the feeble-minded, and to bring back the lame which had been turned out of the way, if haply it might be healed.

Mon. 12. I left London, and in the evening expounded at Wycombe the story of the Pharisee and the Publican. The next morning, a young gentleman overtook me on the road, and after a while asked me, "If I had seen Whitefield's Journals?" I told him, "I had." "And what do you think of them?" said he. "Don't you think they are d—n'd cant, enthusiasm from end to end? I think so." I asked him, "Why do you think so?" He replied, "Why, he talks so much about joy and stuff, and inward feelings. As I hope to be saved, I cannot tell what to make of it." I asked, "Did you ever feel the love of God in your heart? If not, how should you tell what to make of it? Whatever is spoke of the religion of the heart, and of the inward workings of the Spirit of God, must appear enthusiasm to those who have not felt them; that is, if they take upon them to judge of the things which they own they know not."

At four in the afternoon I came to Oxford, and to a small company in the evening explained the nature and extent of that salvation, wherewith, by grace, we are saved through faith. The next evening I showed what it is to believe, as well as more largely what are the fruits of true believing, from those words of the Apostle: "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Thur. 15. My brother and I set out for Tiverton. About eleven I preached at Burford. On Saturday evening I explained, at Bristol, the nature and extent of Christian perfection; and at nine in the morning, preached at Bath, on, "I know that in me dwelleth no good thing."

In the afternoon I exhorted four or five thousand people at Bristol neither to neglect nor rest in the means of grace. In the evening, I endeavoured to lift up the hands that hung down, by declaring, "He will not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax."

Mon. 19. I earnestly exhorted those who had believed, "To beware of two opposite extremes: The one, the thinking, while they were in light and joy, that the work was ended, when it was but just begun;—the other, the

thinking, when they were in heaviness, that it was not begun, because they found it was not ended."

At eight, I exhorted the Society to wait upon God in all his ordinances, and in so doing to be still, and suffer God to carry on his whole work in their souls. In that hour He was pleased to restore his light to many that sat in darkness; two of whom, till then, thought He had quite "cast out their prayer, and turned his mercy from them."

Tues. 20. We set out, and on Wednesday, 21, in the afternoon, came to Tiverton. My poor sister was sorrowing almost as one without hope. Yet we could not but rejoice at hearing, from one who had attended my brother in all his weakness, that several days before he went hence, God had given him a calm and full assurance of his interest in Christ. O may every one who opposes it be thus convinced that this doctrine is of God!

Sat. 24. We accepted an invitation to Exeter, from one who came thence to comfort my sister in her affliction, and on Sunday, 25th, (Mr. D. having desired the pulpit, which was readily granted, both for the morning and afternoon,) I preached at St. Mary's, on, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Dr. W—— told me, after sermon, "Sir, you must not preach in the afternoon. Not," said he, "that you preach any false doctrine. I allow all that you have said is true; and it is the doctrine of the Church of England. But it is not guarded; it is dangerous; it may lead people into enthusiasm or despair."

I did not readily see where the stress of this objection (so frequently started) lay. But upon a little reflection I saw it plain. The real state of the case is this: Religion is commonly thought to consist of three things,—Harmlessness—using the means of grace,—and doing good, as it is called; that is, helping our neighbours, chiefly by giving alms. Accordingly, by a religious man is commonly meant, one that is honest, just, and fair in his dealings; that is constantly at church and sacrament, and that gives much alms, or (as it is usually termed) does much good.

Now in explaining those words of the Apostle, "The kingdom of God (or true religion, the consequence of God's dwelling and reigning in the soul) is not meat and

drink;" I was necessarily led to show, that religion does not properly consist in any or all of these three things; but that a man might both be harmless, use the means of grace, and do much good, and yet have no true religion at all. And sure it is, had God then impressed this great truth on any who before was ignorant of it, that impression would have occasioned such heaviness in his soul, as the world always terms despair.

Again, in explaining those words, "The kingdom of God (or true religion) is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost;" I insisted, that every follower of Christ ought to expect, and pray for, that "peace of God which passeth all understanding;" that "rejoicing in hope of the glory of God," which is even now "unspeakable and full of glory;" and above all, (as being the very life and soul of religion, without which it is all dead show,) "The love of God, shed abroad in his heart, by the Holy Ghost given unto him." But all this is "enthusiasm from end to end," to those who have the form of godliness, but not the power.

I know, indeed, there is a way of explaining these texts, so that they shall mean just nothing; so that they shall express far less of inward religion, than the writings of Plato or Hierocles. And whoever guards them thus (but God forbid I should do it) will undoubtedly avoid all danger, of either driving people into this despair, or leading them into this enthusiasm.

Tues. 27. I wrote Mr. D. (according to his request) a short account of what had been done in Kingswood, and of our present undertaking there. The account was as follows :—

"Few persons have lived long in the west of England, who have not heard of the colliers of Kingswood; a people famous from the beginning hitherto, for neither fearing God nor regarding man: so ignorant of the things of God, that they seemed but one remove from the beasts that perish; and therefore utterly without desire of instruction, as well as without the means of it.

"Many last winter used tauntingly to say of Mr. Whitefield, 'If he will convert Heathens, why does not he go to the colliers of Kingswood?' In spring he did so. And as there were thousands who resorted to no place of public worship, he went after them into their own

wilderness, 'to seek and save that which was lost.' When he was called away, others went into 'the highways and hedges, to compel them to come in.' And, by the grace of God, their labour was not in vain. The scene is already changed. Kingswood does not now, as a year ago, resound with cursing and blasphemy. It is no more filled with drunkenness and uncleanness, and the idle diversions that naturally lead thereto. It is no longer full of wars and fightings, of clamour and bitterness, of wrath and envyings: peace and love are there. Great numbers of the people are mild, gentle, and easy to be entreated. They 'do not cry, neither strive,' and hardly is their 'voice heard in the streets,' or, indeed, in their own wood; unless when they are at their usual evening diversion, singing praise unto God their Saviour.

"That their children, too, might know the things which make for their peace, it was some time since proposed to build a house in Kingswood; and after many foreseen and unforeseen difficulties, in June last the foundation was laid. The ground made choice of, was in the middle of the wood, between the London and Bath roads, not far from that called Two-Mile Hill, about three measured miles from Bristol.

"Here a large room was begun for the school, having four small rooms, at either end, for the school-masters (and perhaps, if it should please God, some poor children) to lodge in. Two persons are ready to teach, so soon as the house is fit to receive them, the shell of which is nearly finished; so that it is hoped the whole will be completed in spring, or early in the summer.

"It is true, although the masters require no pay, yet this undertaking is attended with great expense. But let Him that 'feedeth the young ravens' see to that. He hath the hearts of all men in his hand. If He put it into your heart, or into that of any of your friends, to assist in bringing this his work to perfection in this world, look for no recompence; but it shall be remembered in that day when our Lord shall say, 'Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me.'"

Wed. Nov. 28. We left Tiverton, and the next day reached Bristol. On Friday, many of us joined in prayer for one that was grievously tormented. She raged more

and more for about two hours, and then our Lord gave her rest.

Five were in the same agony in the evening. I ordered them to be removed to the door, that their cries might neither drown my voice, nor interrupt the attention of the congregation. But after sermon, they were brought into the room again, where a few of us continued in prayer to God (being determined not to go till we had an answer of peace) till nine the next morning. Before that time, three of them sang praise to God; and the others were eased, though not set at liberty.

Tues. Dec. 4. I was violently attacked by some, who were exceedingly angry at those who cried out so; being sure, (they said,) "It was all a cheat; and that any one might help crying out, if he would." J. Bl. was one of those who were sure of this. About eight, the next morning, while he was alone in his chamber, at private prayer, so horrible a dread overwhelmed him, that he began crying out with all his might. All the family was alarmed. Several of them came running up into his chamber; but he cried out so much the more, till his breath was utterly spent. God then rebuked the adversary; and he is now less wise in his own conceit.

Thur. 6. I left Bristol, and (after preaching at Malmesbury and Burford in the way) on Saturday, 8, came into my old room at Oxford, from which I went to Georgia. Here musing on the things that were past, and reflecting, how many that came after me were preferred before me, I opened my Testament on those words: (O may I never let them slip!) "What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law."

Sun. 9. I expounded in the evening to a small, but deeply serious, company, "There is one Mediator between God and man, even the man Christ Jesus;" and exhorted them earnestly, to go straight to Him, with all their miseries, follies, and sins.

Tues. 11. I visited Mrs. Plat; one who, having long sought death in the error of her life, was brought back to the great Shepherd of her soul, the first time my brother preached faith in Oxford. In the midst of sickness and

pain, and the deepest want, she was calmly rejoicing in God. By this faith may I be thus saved! So as in the midst of heaviness, through manifold temptations, without raiment, or food, or health, or friends, to "rejoice with joy unspeakable."

Thur. 13. I had some hours' conversation with a serious man, who offered many considerations to show, "That there are no unholy men on earth; and that there are no holy men; but that, in reality, all men are alike, there being no inward difference between them."

I was at first in doubt, what could lead a man of learning and sense into so wonderful an opinion. But that doubt was soon cleared. He had narrowly observed those whom the world calls good men, and could not but discern, that the difference between them and others was merely external; their tempers, their desires, their springs of action, were the same. He clearly saw, although one man was a thief, a common swearer, a drunkard, and another not; although this woman was a liar, a prostitute, a sabbath-breaker, and the other clear of these things: yet they were both lovers of pleasure, lovers of praise, lovers of the present world. He saw, self-will was the sole spring of action in both, though exerting itself in different ways; and that the love of God no more filled and ruled the heart of the one, than of the other. Hence therefore he inferred well, "If these persons are holy, there are none unholy upon earth: seeing thieves and prostitutes have as good a heart as these saints of the world." And whereas some of these said, "Nay, but we have faith; we believe in and rely on Christ;" it was easily replied, Yea, and such a faith in Christ, such a reliance on Him, to save them in their sins, have nine in ten of all the robbers and murderers, of whom ye yourselves say, "Away with them from the earth."

In the afternoon I was informed, how many wise and learned men (who cannot, in terms, deny it, because our Articles and Homilies are not yet repealed) explain Justification by Faith. They say, 1. Justification is two-fold; the first, in this life, the second, at the last day. 2. Both these are by faith alone, that is, by objective faith, or by the merits of Christ, which are the object of our faith. And this, they say, is all that St. Paul and the Church mean by, "We are justified by faith only." But they

add, 3. We are not justified by subjective faith alone; that is, by the faith which is in us; but works also must be added to this faith, as a joint condition both of the first and second justification.

The sense of which hard words is plainly this: God accepts us both here and hereafter, only for the sake of what Christ has done and suffered for us. This alone is the cause of our justification. But the condition thereof is, not faith alone, but faith and works together.

In flat opposition to this, I cannot but maintain, (at least till I have a clearer light,) 1. That the justification which is spoken of by St. Paul to the Romans, and in our Articles, is not twofold; it is one, and no more. It is the present remission of our sins, or our first acceptance with God. 2. It is true, that the merits of Christ are the sole cause of this our justification: But it is not true that this is all which St. Paul and our Church mean, by our being justified by faith only; neither is it true, that either St. Paul or the Church mean, by faith, the merits of Christ. But, 3. By our being justified by faith only, both St. Paul and the Church mean, that the condition of our justification is faith alone, and not good works; inasmuch as "all works done before justification have in them the nature of sin." Lastly, That faith, which is the sole condition of justification, is the faith which is in us by the grace of God. It is "a sure trust which a man hath, that Christ hath loved him and died for him."

During my short stay here, I received several unpleasant accounts of the state of things in London; a part of which I have subjoined.

"Many of our sisters are shaken: J——y C—— says that she never had faith. Betty and Esther H—— are grievously torn by reasonings; the former, I am told, is going to Germany.—On Wednesday night there are but few come to Fetter-Lane till near nine o'clock: and then after the names are called over, they presently depart. It appears plain, our brethren here have neither wisdom enough to guide, nor prudence enough to let it alone.

"Mr. B——n expounds much, and speaks so slightly of the means of grace, that many are much grieved to hear him; but others are greatly delighted with him. Ten or fourteen of them meet at our brother Clark's with

Mr. Molther, and seem to consult about things, as if they were the whole body. These make a mere jest of going to Church, or to the Sacrament. They have much confounded some of our sisters, and many of our brothers are much grieved."—

In another letter, which I received a few days after this, were these words:—

Dec. 14, 1739.

"This day I was told, by one that does not belong to the bands, that the Society would be divided. I believe brother Hutton, Clark, Edmonds and Bray are determined to go on, according to Mr. Molther's directions, and to raise a Church, as they term it; and I suppose above half our brethren are on their side. But they are so very confused, they do not know how to go on; yet are unwilling to be taught, except by the Moravians.

"We long to see you; nay, even those would be glad to see you, who will not be directed by you. I believe, indeed, things would be much better if you would come to town."

Wed. 19. I accordingly came to London, though with a heavy heart. Here I found every day the dreadful effects of our brethren's reasonings and disputing with each other. Scarce one in ten retained his first love; and most of the rest were in the utmost confusion, biting and devouring one another. I pray God, ye be not consumed one of another.

Mon. 24. After spending part of the night at Fetter-Lane, I went to a smaller company, where also we exhorted one another with hymns and spiritual songs, and poured out our hearts to God in prayer. Towards morning, one of them was overwhelmed with joy and love, and could not help showing it by strong cries and tears. At this another was much displeased, saying, "It was only nature, imagination, and animal spirits." O thou jealous God, lay not this sin to her charge; and let us not be wise above what is written!

Sun. 30. One came to me, by whom I used to profit much. But her conversation was now too high for me. It was far above, out of my sight. My soul is sick of this sublime divinity! Let me think and speak as a little child! Let my religion be plain, artless, simple! Meekness, temperance, patience, faith and love, be these my

highest gifts; and let the highest words wherein I teach them, be those I learn from the book of God!

Mon. 31. I had a long and particular conversation with Mr. Molther himself. I weighed all his words with the utmost care, desired him to explain what I did not understand; asked him again and again, Do I not mistake what you say? Is this your meaning, or is it not? So that I think, if God has given me any measure of understanding, I could not mistake him much.

As soon as I came home, I besought God to assist me, and not suffer "the blind to go out of the way." I then wrote down what I conceived to be the difference between us, in the following words:—

As to faith,—You believe,

1. There are no degrees of faith, and that no man has any degree of it before all things in him are become new; before he has the full assurance of faith, the abiding witness of the Spirit, or the clear perception, that Christ dwelleth in him.

2. Accordingly, you believe, there is no justifying faith, or state of justification, short of this.

3. Therefore you believe, our brother Hutton, Edmonds, and others, had no justifying faith, before they saw you.

4. And, in general, that that gift of God, which many received since Peter Böhler came into England, viz. "A sure confidence of the love of God to them," was not justifying faith.

5. And, that the joy and love attending it, were from animal spirits, from nature or imagination; not joy in the Holy Ghost, and the real love of God, shed abroad in their hearts.

Whereas I believe,

1. There are degrees in faith, and that a man may have some degree of it, before all things in him are become new; before he has the full assurance of faith, the abiding witness of the Spirit, or the clear perception that Christ dwelleth in him.

2. Accordingly, I believe, there is a degree of justifying faith, (and consequently a state of justification,) short of, and commonly antecedent to this.

3. I believe our brother Hutton, with many others, had justifying faith, long before they saw you.

4. And, in general, that the gift of God, which many

received since Peter Böhler came into England, viz. "A sure confidence of the love of God to them," was justifying faith.

5. And that the joy and love attending it were not from animal spirits, from nature, or imagination; but a measure of joy in the Holy Ghost, and of the love of God shed abroad in their hearts.

As to the way to faith, you believe,

That the way to attain it is, to wait for Christ, and be still, *i.e.*

Not to use (what we term) the means of grace;

Not to go to Church;

Not to communicate;

Not to fast;

Not to use so much private prayer;

Not to read the Scripture;

(Because you believe these are not means of grace, *i.e.* do not ordinarily convey God's grace to unbelievers; and,

That it is impossible for a man to use them, without trusting in them;)

Not to do temporal good;

Not to attempt doing spiritual good:

Because you believe, no fruit of the Spirit is given by those who have it not themselves;

And, that those who have not faith are utterly blind, and therefore unable to guide other souls.

Whereas I believe,

The way to attain it is, to wait for Christ and be still,

In using "all the means of grace."

Therefore I believe it right for him, who knows he has no faith, (*i.e.* that conquering faith,)

To go to Church;

To communicate;

To fast;

To use as much private prayer as he can; and,

To read the Scripture;

(Because I believe, these are "means of grace," *i.e.* do ordinarily convey God's grace to unbelievers; and,

That it is possible for a man to use them without trusting in them;)

To do all the temporal good he can;

And to endeavour after doing spiritual good:

Because I know, many fruits of the Spirit are given by those who have them not themselves;

258 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

And that those who have not faith, or but in the lowest degree, may have more light from God, more wisdom for the guiding of other souls, than many that are strong in faith.

As to the manner of propagating the faith, you believe, (as I have also heard others affirm,)

That we may, on some accounts, "use guile:"

By saying what we know will deceive the hearers, or lead them to think the thing which is not;

By describing things a little beyond the truth, in order to their coming up to it;

By speaking as if we meant what we do not.

But I believe,

That we may not "use guile" on any account whatsoever:

That we may not, on any account, say, what we know will, and design should, deceive the hearers;

That we may not describe things one jot beyond the truth, whether they come up to it or no; and,

That we may not speak, on any pretence, as if we meant what indeed we do not.

Lastly, As to the fruits of your thus propagating the faith in England, you believe,

Much good has been done by it;

Many unsettled from a false foundation;

Many brought into true stillness, in order to their coming to the true foundation;

Some grounded thereon, who were wrong before, but are right now.

On the contrary, I believe, that very little good, but much hurt, has been done by it.

Many, who were beginning to build holiness and good works, on the true foundation of faith in Jesus, being now wholly unsettled and lost in vain reasonings and doubtful disputations;

Many others being brought into a false, unscriptural stillness; so that they are not likely to come to any true foundation;

And many being grounded on a faith which is without works; so that they who were right before, are wrong now.

Tues. Jan. 1, 1740. I endeavoured to explain to our brethren, the true, Christian, Scriptural "stillness," by largely unfolding those solemn words: "Be still, and

know that I am God." Wednesday, 2, I earnestly besought them all, to "stand in the old paths;" and no longer to subvert one another's souls, by idle controversies and strife of words. They all seemed convinced. We then cried to God, to heal all our backslidings. And He sent forth such a spirit of peace and love, as we had not known for many months before.

Thur. 3. I left London, and the next evening came to Oxford; where I spent the two following days, in looking over the letters which I had received for the sixteen or eighteen years last past. How few traces of inward religion are here! I found but one among all my correspondents, who declared, (what I well remember, at that time, I knew not how to understand,) that "God had shed abroad his love in his heart, and given him the peace that passeth all understanding." But, who believed his report? Should I conceal a sad truth, or declare it for the profit of others? He was expelled out of his Society, as a madman, and being disowned by his friends, and despised and forsaken of all men, lived obscure and unknown for a few months, and then went to Him whom his soul loved.

Mon. 7. I left Oxford. In the evening I preached at Burford; the next evening at Malmsbury; and on Wednesday, 9, I once more described the exceeding great and precious promises at Bristol.

Sat. 12. I explained the former part of Heb. vi.; and many were "renewed again to repentance." Sunday, 13, while the Sacrament was administering at the house of a person that was sick in Kingswood, a woman, who had been before much tempted of the Devil, sunk down as dead. One could not perceive, by any motion of her breast, that she breathed, and her pulse was hardly discernible. A strange sort of dissimulation this! I would wish those who think it so, only to stop their own breath and pulse one hour; and I will then subscribe to their opinion.

Mon. 14. I began expounding the Scriptures in order, at the New-Room, at six in the morning; by which means many more attend the College prayers (which immediately follow) than ever before. In the afternoon I preached at Downing, four miles from Bristol, on, "God hath given unto us eternal life; and this life is in his Son:" and on Tuesday, 15, at Sison, five miles from Bristol, on,

260 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

"The blood which cleanseth us from all sin." After preaching I visited a young man, dangerously ill, who, a day or two after, cried out aloud, "Lord Jesus, thou knowest that I love thee! And I have thee, and will never let thee go;" and died immediately.

Thur. 17. I preached at Kendalshire, six miles from Bristol, on, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." Sunday, 20, my heart was enlarged at Kingswood, in declaring, "Ye are saved through faith." And the woman who had been so torn of the Devil last week, was now made partaker of this salvation; being above measure filled with the love of God, and with all peace and joy in believing.

Mon. 21. I preached at Hannam, four miles from Bristol. In the evening I made a collection, in our congregation, for the relief of the poor, without Lawford's-gate; who, having no work, (because of the severe frost,) and no assistance from the parish wherein they lived, were reduced to the last extremity. I made another collection on Thursday, and a third on Sunday; by which we were enabled to feed a hundred, sometimes a hundred and fifty, a day, of those whom we found to need it most.

Tues. 22. I preached at Bridge-Gate, six miles from Bristol: Thursday, 24, at Westerleigh, eight miles from thence. In the evening, at the New-Room, I expounded Exod. xiv. And we found that God's arm is not shortened, and rejoiced before Him with reverence. I was a little surprised in going out of the room, at one who caught hold of me, and said abruptly, "I must speak with you, and will. I have sinned against light and against love; I have sinned beyond forgiveness; I have been cursing you in my heart, and blaspheming God ever since I came here: I am damned; I know it; I feel it; I am in hell; I have hell in my heart." I desired two or three, who had confidence in God, to join in crying to Him on her behalf. Immediately that horrid dread was taken away, and she began to see some dawnings of hope.

Fri. 25. Another was with me, who, after having tasted the heavenly gift, was fallen in the depth of despair; but it was not long before God heard the prayer, and restored to her the light of his countenance.

One came to me in the evening, to know, "If a man could not be saved without the faith of assurance?" I

answered, 1. I cannot approve of your terms; because they are not scriptural. I find no such phrase as either, "Faith of assurance," or "Faith of adherence," in the Bible: beside, you speak as if there were two faiths in one Lord; whereas, St. Paul tells us, there is but one faith in one Lord. 2. By, "Ye are saved by faith," I understand, ye are saved from your inward and outward sins. 3. I never yet knew one soul thus saved, without what you call "the faith of assurance:" I mean a sure confidence, that by the merits of Christ he was reconciled to the favour of God.

Sat. 26. I was strongly convinced, that if we asked of God, He would give light to all those that were in darkness. About noon we had a proof of it: one that was weary and heavy-laden, upon prayer made for her, soon finding rest to her soul. In the afternoon we had a second proof; another mourner being speedily comforted. M———v D———n was a third; who about five o'clock began again to rejoice in God her Saviour; as did M——y H———y, about the same hour, after a long night of doubts and fears.

Thur. 31. I went to one in Kingswood who was dangerously ill; as was supposed, past recovery; but she was strong in the Lord, longing to be dissolved and to be with Christ. Some of her words were, "I was long striving to come to my Saviour, and I then thought He was afar off; but now I know He was nigh me all that time: I know his arms were round me; for his arms are like the rainbow, they go round heaven and earth."

I had now determined, if it should please God, to spend some time in Bristol; but, quite contrary to my expectation, I was called away in a manner I could not resist. A young man, who had no thoughts of religion, had come to Bristol a few months before. One of his acquaintance brought him to me; he approved of what he heard, and for a while behaved well; but soon after his seriousness wore off, he returned to London, and fell in with his old acquaintance: by some of these he was induced to commit a robbery on the highway; for which he was apprehended, tried, and condemned: he had now a strong desire to speak with me; and some of his words (in a letter to his friend) were, "I adjure him, by the living God, that he come and see me before I go hence."

Fri. Feb. 1. I set out, and on Sunday, 3, declared the grace of God at Newbury, from those words of the Prophet: "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely;" and though the church was full of (chiefly) genteel, well-dressed people, they behaved as if they knew God was there.

Mon. 4. I came to Reading, and met with a few hungering and thirsting after righteousness. A few more I found at Windsor in the evening. The next afternoon I reached London.

Wed. 6. I went to the poor young man, who lay under sentence of death: of a truth God has begun a good work in his soul: O may it be brought to perfection!

I think it was the next time I was there, that the Ordinary of Newgate came to me, and with much vehemence told me, "He was sorry I should turn Dissenter from the Church of England." I told him, "If it was so, I did not know it." At which he seemed a little surprised; and offered at something by way of proof, but which needed not a reply.

Our 20th article defines a true Church, "A congregation of faithful people, wherein the true word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered." According to this account, the Church of England is that body of faithful people (or holy believers) in England, among whom the pure word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered. Who then are the worst Dissenters from this Church? 1. Unholy men of all kinds; swearers, sabbath-breakers, drunkards, fighters, whoremongers, liars, revilers, evil-speakers; the passionate, the gay, the lovers of money, the lovers of dress, or of praise, the lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God: all these are Dissenters of the highest sort, continually striking at the root of the Church; and themselves belonging in truth to no Church, but to the synagogue of Satan. 2. Men unsound in the faith; those who deny the Scriptures of truth; those who deny the Lord that bought them; those who deny justification by faith alone, or the present salvation which is by faith: these also are Dissenters of a very high kind; for they likewise strike at the foundation; and were their principles universally to obtain, there could be no true Church upon earth. Lastly, those who unduly administer the sacraments; who (to instance but in one point) administer the

Lord's Supper to such as have neither the power nor the form of godliness; these too are gross Dissenters from the Church of England, and should not cast the first stone at others.

Tues. 12. The young man, who was to die the next day, gave me a paper, part of which was as follows:—

“As I am to answer to the God of justice and truth, before whom I am to appear naked to-morrow,

“I came to Bristol with a design to go abroad, either as a surgeon, or in any other capacity that was suiting. It was there I unfortunately saw Mr. Ramsey. He told me, after one or two interviews, that he was in the service of Mr. John Wesley; and that he would introduce me to him; which he did. I cannot but say, I was always fond of the doctrine that I heard from him: however, unhappily I consented with Mr. Ramsey, and, I believe, between us we might take more than thirty pounds out of the money collected for building the school in Kingswood.

“I acknowledge the justice of God in overtaking me for my sacrilege, in taking that money which was devoted to God; but He, I trust, has forgiven me this and all my sins, washing them away in the blood of the Lamb.

Feb. 12, 1739-40.

GWILLIAM SNOWDE.”

I knew not in the morning whether to rejoice or grieve, when they informed me, “He was reprieved for six weeks;” and afterwards, “That he was ordered for transportation.” But known unto God are all his works!

Wed. 20. I explained at Deptford the nature of Christian faith and salvation. Many seemed to receive the word with joy; others complained, “Thou bringest strange things to our ears;” though some of them had not patience to hear what this new doctrine was.

Thurs. 21. I had a long conference with those whom I esteem very highly in love; but I could not yet understand them on one point: “Christian openness and plainness of speech.” They pleaded for such a reservedness and closeness of conversation, as I could in no wise reconcile with St. Paul's direction: “By manifestation of the truth to commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.” Yet I scarce knew what to think,—considering they had the practice of their whole church on

264 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

their side,—till I opened my Testament on these words :
 "What is that to thee? follow thou me."

Tues. 26. Complaint was made again, (as, indeed, had been done before, and that not once or twice only,) that many of our brethren, not content with leaving off the ordinances of God themselves, were continually troubling those that did not, and disputing with them, whether they would or no. The same complaint was made the next night also, at the meeting of the Society. I then plainly set before them the things they had done, expostulated the case with them, and earnestly besought them, "not to trouble or perplex the minds of their brethren any more; but at least to excuse those who still waited for God in the ways of his own appointment."

Sat. March 1. Many that were in heaviness being met together, we cried to God to comfort their souls. One of these soon found that God heareth the prayer. She had before been under the physician's hands; her relations taking it for granted she was beside herself; but the Great Physician alone knew how to heal her sickness.

Mon. 3. I rode by Windsor to Reading, where I had left two or three full of peace and love; but I now found some from London had been here, grievously troubling these souls also, labouring to persuade them, 1. That they had no faith at all; because they sometimes felt doubt or fear: and 2. That they ought to be still; not to go to church, not to communicate, not to search the Scriptures; "Because (say they) you cannot do any of these things without trusting in them."

After confirming their souls, we left Reading, and on Wednesday, 5, came to Bristol. It was easy to observe here, in how different a manner God works now from what He did last spring. He then poured along like a rapid flood, overwhelming all before Him; whereas now

"He deigns his influence to infuse,
 Secret, refreshing as the silent dews."

Convictions sink deeper and deeper; love and joy are more calm, even, and steady; and God, in many, is laying the axe to the root of the tree, who can have no rest in their spirits, till they are fully renewed in the image of God, in righteousness and true holiness.

Wed. 12. I found a little time (having been much importuned) to spend with the soldier in Bridewell, who was

under sentence of death. This I continued to do once a day; whereby there was also an opportunity of declaring the Gospel of peace to several desolate ones, that were confined in the same place.

Tues. 25. The morning exposition began at five, as I hope it will always for the time to come. Thursday, 27, I had an interview with Joseph Chandler, a young Quaker, who had sometimes spoke in their meeting, with whom I had never exchanged a word before; as indeed I knew him not either by face or name; but some had been at the pains of carrying him, as from me, a formal challenge to dispute; and had afterwards told him, "That I had declared in the open Society, I challenged Joseph Chandler to dispute; and he promised to come, but broke his word." Joseph immediately sent, to know from my own mouth, if these things were so? If those, who probably count themselves better Christians, had but done like this honest Quaker, how many idle tales, which they now potently believe, would, like this, have vanished into air.

Sat. 29. I spent another hour with one I had twice conversed with before, and with much the same effect. He asked, "Wherein the doctrine I preached differed from the doctrine preached by other Ministers of the Church? I told him, "I hope not at all, from that which is preached by many other Ministers; but from that which is preached by some it differs thus: I preach the doctrine of the Church, and they do not." After he had long and zealously laboured to prove, that "all Ministers preached as I did, and there was no difference of doctrine at all," I was obliged to leave him abruptly; and should, indeed, have feared that my time had been spent to small purpose, but for one piece of history which I then learned, viz. "That he had gone to the Bishop, before his lordship left Bristol, and informed him, that I said in the public congregation, "I had had a conference with the Bishop and twelve clergymen, and had put them all to silence." Was his lordship so informed? and could he believe even this! O Joseph Chandler, Joseph Chandler!

I think it was about this time that the soldier was executed. For some time I had visited him every day; but when "the love of God was shed abroad in his heart," I told him, "Do not expect to see me any more: He, who has now begun a good work in your soul, will, I doubt

not, preserve you to the end; but, I believe, Satan will separate us for a season." Accordingly, the next day I was informed, that the commanding officer had given strict orders, "Neither Mr. Wesley, nor any of his people, should be admitted; for they were all Atheists." But did that man die like an Atheist? Let my last end be like his!

Tues. April 1. While I was expounding the former part of the 23d chapter of the Acts, (how wonderfully suited to the occasion, though not by my choice,) the floods began to lift up their voice. Some or other of the children of Belial had laboured to disturb us several nights before; but now it seemed as if all the hosts of the aliens were come together with one consent. Not only the court and the alleys, but all the street, upwards and downwards, was filled with people, shouting, cursing, and swearing, and ready to swallow the ground with fierceness and rage. The Mayor sent order that they should disperse, but they set him at nought. The chief Constable came next in person, who was, till then, sufficiently prejudiced against us; but they insulted him also in so gross a manner, as I believe fully opened his eyes. At length the Mayor sent several of his officers, who took the ringleaders into custody, and did not go till all the rest were dispersed. Surely he hath been to us "the Minister of God for good."

Wed. 2. The rioters were brought up to the court, the Quarter-Sessions being held that day. They began to excuse themselves, by saying many things of me. But the mayor cut them all short, saying, "What Mr. Wesley is, is nothing to you. I will keep the peace: I will have no rioting in this city."

Calling at Newgate in the afternoon, I was informed, "That the poor wretches under sentence of death were earnestly desirous to speak with me; but that it could not be, Alderman Beecher having just then sent an express order that they should not." I cite Alderman Beecher, to answer for these souls at the judgment-seat of Christ.

Thur. 3. I went into the room, weak and faint. The Scripture that came in course was, "After the way that you call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers." I know not whether God hath been so with us from the beginning hitherto: He proclaimed, as it were, a general deliverance to the captives. The chains fell off; they arose and

followed Him : the cries of desire, joy, and love, were on every side ; fear, sorrow and doubt fled away. Verily, thou hast "sent a gracious rain upon thine inheritance, and refreshed it when it was weary."

On Good Friday, I was much comforted by Mr. T—'s sermon at All Saints, which was according to the truth of the Gospel ; as well as by the affectionate seriousness wherewith he delivered the holy bread to a very large congregation. May the good Lord fill him with all the life of love, and with all "spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus."

At five, preaching on John xix. 34, "A soldier pierced his side, and there came forth blood and water ;" I was enabled to speak strong words, both concerning the atoning blood, and the living, sanctifying water. Many were deeply convinced of their want of both, and others filled with strong consolation.

Mon. 7. At the pressing instance of Howel Harris, I again set out for Wales. In the evening, I preached "repentance and remission of sins," at Lanvachas, three miles from the New Passage. Tuesday, 8th, I preached at Ponty-Pool, on, "By grace ye are saved through faith ;" and in the evening at Lanhithel, three miles from thence, on, "I know that in me dwelleth no good thing."

Wed. 9. After reading prayers in Lanhithel church, I preached on those words : "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely." In the afternoon, Howel Harris told me, how earnestly many had laboured to prejudice him against me ; especially those who had gleaned up all the idle stories at Bristol, and retailed them in their own country. And yet these are good Christians ! These whisperers, tale-bearers, back-biters, evil-speakers ! Just such Christians as murderers or adulterers. "Except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish."

In the evening I expounded, at Cardiff, the story of the Pharisee and Publican. The next day, Thursday, 10th, after preaching thrice, I rode to Watford, five miles from Cardiff, where a few of us joined together in prayer, and in provoking one another to love and to good works.

Fri. 11. I preached in Lantarnum church, on, "By grace ye are saved, through faith." In the afternoon, I preached at Penreul, near Ponty-Pool. A few were cut to the heart, particularly Mrs. A——d, who had some time before given me up for a Papist ; Mr. E——s, the curate,

268 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

having averred me to be such, upon his personal knowledge, at her house in Ponty-Pool. I afterwards called, "O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord:" And there was a shaking indeed. Three or four came to me in such mourning as I had hardly seen; as did a poor drunkard, between eleven and twelve, who was convinced by the word spoken on Tuesday.

Sat. 12. After preaching at Lanvachas in the way, in the afternoon I came to Bristol, and heard the melancholy news that —, one of the chief of those who came to make the disturbance on the first instant, had hanged himself. He was cut down, it seems, alive, but died in less than an hour; a second of them had been for some days in strong pain, and had many times sent to desire our prayers. A third came to me himself, and confessed, "he was hired that night, and made drunk on purpose; but, when he came to the door, he knew not what was the matter, he could not stir, nor open his mouth."

Mon. 14. I was explaining the liberty we have, "to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus," when one cried out, as in an agony, "Thou art a hypocrite, a devil, an enemy to the Church. This is false doctrine; it is not the doctrine of the Church; it is damnable doctrine; it is the doctrine of devils." I did not perceive that any were hurt thereby; but rather strengthened, by having such an opportunity of confirming their love toward him, and returning good for evil.

Tues. 15. I received the following note:—

"SIR,

"This is to let you understand, that the man which made the noise last night is named John Beon. He now goes by the name of John Darsy. He is a Romish priest. We have people enough here in Bristol that know him."

Sat. 19. I received a letter from Mr. Simpson, and another from Mr. William Oxlee, informing me, that our poor brethren in Fetter-Lane were again in great confusion; and earnestly desiring that, if it were possible, I would come to London without delay.

Mon. 21. I set out, and the next evening reached London. Wednesday, 23d; I went to Mr. Simpson. He told me, "All the confusion was owing to my brother, who would preach up the ordinances; whereas believers (said he) are not subject to ordinances; and unbelievers have

nothing to do with them. They ought to be still; otherwise they will be unbelievers all the days of their life."

After a fruitless dispute of about two hours, I returned home with a heavy heart. Mr. Molther was taken ill this day. I believe it was the hand of God that was upon him. In the evening our Society met; but cold, weary, heartless, dead. I found nothing of brotherly love among them now, but a harsh, dry, heavy, stupid spirit. For two hours they looked one at another, when they looked up at all, as if one half of them was afraid of the other; yea, as if a voice were sounding in their ears, "Take ye heed every one of his neighbour; trust ye not in any brother. For every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders."

I think not so few as thirty persons spoke to me in these two days, who had been strongly solicited, 1. To deny what God had done for their souls, to own they never had living faith; 2. To be still till they had it, to leave off all the means of grace, not to go to church, not to communicate, not to search the Scripture, not to use private prayer; at least not so much, or not vocally, or not at any stated times.

Fri. 25. My brother and I went to Mr. Molther again, and spent two hours in conversation with him. He now also explicitly affirmed, 1. That there are no degrees in faith; that none has any faith who has ever any doubt or fear, and that none is justified till he has a clean heart, with the perpetual indwelling of Christ and of the Holy Ghost; and 2. That every one who has not this ought, till he has it, to be still; that is, as he explained it, not to use the ordinances or means of grace, so called. He also expressly asserted, 1. That to those who have a clean heart the ordinances are not matter of duty. They are not commanded to use them; they are free; they may use them, or they may not. 2. That those who have not a clean heart ought not to use them; (particularly not to communicate; because God neither commands nor designs they should; (commanding them to none, designing them only for believers;) and because they are not means of grace, there being no such thing as means of grace but Christ only."

Ten or twelve persons spoke to me this day also, and many more the day following, who had been greatly troubled by this new gospel, and thrown into the utmost

heaviness; and indeed wherever I went I found more and more proofs of the grievous confusion it had occasioned; many coming to me day by day, who were once full of peace and love, but were now again plunged into doubts and fears, and driven even to their wit's end.

I was now utterly at a loss what course to take, finding no rest for the sole of my foot. These vain janglings pursued me wherever I went, and were always sounding in my ears. Wednesday, 30th, I went to my friend (that was!) Mr. St——, at Islington. But he also immediately entered upon the subject, telling me, "Now he was fully assured, that no one has any degree of faith, till he is perfect as God is perfect." I asked, "Have you then no degree of faith?" He said, "No; for I have not a clean heart." I turned and asked his servant, "Esther, have you a clean heart?" She said, "No; my heart is desperately wicked; but I have no doubt or fear: I know my Saviour loves me; and I love him: I feel it every moment." I then plainly told her master, "Here is an end of your reasoning; this is the state, the existence of which you deny."

Thence I went to the little Society here, which had stood untainted from the beginning. But the plague was now spread to them also. One of them, who had been long full of joy in believing, now denied she had any faith at all, and said, "Till she had, she would communicate no more." Another, who said, "She had the faith that overcometh the world," added, "She had not communicated for some weeks; and it was all one to her whether she did or no, for a believer was not subject to ordinances."

In the evening, one of the first things started at Fetter-Lane was, the question concerning the ordinances. But I entreated we might not be always disputing, but rather give ourselves unto prayer.

I endeavoured all this time, both by explaining in public those Scriptures which had been misunderstood, and by private conversation, to bring back those who had been led out of the way; and having now delivered my own soul, on Friday, May 2, I left London; and, lying at Hungerford that night, the next evening came to Bristol.

Sun. 4. I preached in the morning at the School, and in the afternoon at Rose-Green, on, "I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

Mon. 5. I expounded those words, "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you;" and described the state of those who have forgiveness of sins, but have not yet a clean heart.

Wed. 7. I prayed with a poor helpless sinner, who had been all his lifetime subject to bondage. But our Lord now proclaimed deliverance to the captive, and he rejoiced with joy unspeakable. All the next day his mouth was filled with praise, and on Friday he fell asleep.

Thur. 8. I was greatly refreshed by conversing with several, who were indeed as little children; not artful nor wise in their own eyes; not doting on "controversy and strife of words;" but truly "determined, to know nothing save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

Fri. 9. I was a little surprised at some, who were buffeted of Satan in an unusual manner, by such a spirit of laughter as they could in nowise resist, though it was pain and grief unto them. I could scarce have believed the account they gave me, had I not known the same thing ten or eleven years ago. Part of Sunday, my brother and I then used to spend in walking in the meadows and singing Psalms. But one day, just as we were beginning to sing, he burst out into a loud laughter. I asked him, "If he was distracted?" and began to be very angry, and presently after to laugh as loud as he; nor could we possibly refrain, though we were ready to tear ourselves in pieces, but we were forced to go home without singing another line.

Tues. 13. In the evening I went to Upton, a little town, five or six miles from Bristol, and offered to all those who had ears to hear, "Repentance and remission of sins." The Devil knew his kingdom shook, and therefore stirred up his servants to ring bells, and make all the noise they could. But my voice prevailed, so that most of those that were present heard the word which is able to save their souls.

Wed. 14. I visited one of our colliers, who was ill of the smallpox. His soul was full of peace, and a day or two after returned to God that gave it.

Sat. 17. I found more and more undeniable proofs, that the Christian state is a continual warfare, and that we have need every moment to "watch and pray, lest we enter into temptation." Outward trials indeed were now removed, and "peace was in all our borders." But so

much the more did inward trials abound; and "if one member suffered, all the members suffered with it." So strange a sympathy did I never observe before; whatever considerable temptation fell on any one, unaccountably spreading itself to the rest, so that exceeding few were able to escape it.

Sun. 18. I endeavoured to explain those important words of St. Peter: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as if some strange thing happened unto you." *Μὴ ξενίζεσθε τῇ ἐν ὑμῖν πυρώσει πρὸς πειρασμὸν ὑμῶν γενομένῃ*: literally, "Marvel not at the burning in you, which is for your trial."

Wed. 21. In the evening such a spirit of laughter was among us, that many were much offended. But the attention of all was fixed on poor L—— a S——, whom we all knew to be no dissembler. One so violently and variously torn of the evil one did I never see before. Sometimes she laughed till almost strangled; then broke out into cursing and blaspheming; then stamped and struggled with incredible strength, so that four or five could scarce hold her: then cried out, "O eternity, eternity! O that I had no soul! O that I had never been born!" At last she faintly called on Christ to help her. And the violence of her pangs ceased.

Most of our brethren and sisters were now fully convinced, that those who were under this strange temptation could not help it. Only E——th B——, and Anne H——n, were of another mind; being still sure, "any one might help laughing if she would." This they declared to many on Thursday; but on Friday the 23d, God suffered Satan to teach them better. Both of them were suddenly seized in the same manner as the rest, and laughed whether they would or no, almost without ceasing. Thus they continued for two days, a spectacle to all; and were then, upon prayer made for them, delivered in a moment.

Mon. 26. S——a Ha——g, after she had calmly rejoiced several days, in the midst of violent pain, found at once a return of ease, and health, and strength; and arose and went to her common business.

Sun. June 1. I explained "the rest which remaineth for the people of God," in the morning at Kingswood-School, and in the evening at Rose-Green, to six or seven thousand people. I afterwards exhorted our Society, (the time

being come that I was to leave them for a season,) "to pray always," that they might not faint in their minds, though they were "wrestling not with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places."

Mon. 2. I left Bristol, and rode by Avon and Malmsbury (where I preached in the evening) to Oxford. Two or three, even here, had not yet been persuaded to cast away their confidence; one of whom was still full of her first love, which she had received at the Lord's Table.

Thur. 5. I came to London; where finding a general temptation prevail, of leaving off good works, in order to an increase of faith, I began, on Friday the sixth, to expound the Epistle of St. James; the great antidote against this poison. I then went to Mr. S—— once again, to try if we could yet come to any agreement; but O what an interview was there! He seriously told me, "He was going to sell his living; only the purchaser did not seem quite willing to come up to his price." He would fain have proved to me the lawfulness of doing this; and in order thereto he averred roundly, 1. That no honest man can officiate as a Minister in the Church of England. 2. That no man can with a good conscience join in the prayers of the Church, because (said he) they are all full of horrid lies.

Mon. 9. A woman came to me from Deptford, "sent (as she said) from God." I gave her the hearing; and she spoke great words and true. But I remembered, "judge nothing before the time."

Wed. 11. I went with Mr. Ingham to Islington, purposely to talk with Mr. Molther. But they said, he was so ill, he could not be spoken to. In the evening I went to Fetter-Lane, and plainly told our poor, confused, shattered Society, wherein they had erred from the faith. It was as I feared: They could not receive my saying. However, I am clear from the blood of these men.

Fri. 13. A great part of our Society joined with us in prayer, and kept, I trust, an acceptable fast unto the Lord.

Wed. 18. My brother set out for Bristol. At six I preached in Marybone-Fields, (much against my will; but I believed it was the will of God,) "repentance and remission of sins." All were quiet, and the far greater part of the hearers seemed deeply attentive. Thence I

went to our own Society of Fetter-Lane; before whom Mr. Ingham (being to leave London on the morrow) bore a noble testimony, for the ordinances of God, and the reality of weak faith. But the short answer was, "You are blind, and speak of the things you know not."

Thur. 19. We discovered another snare of the Devil. The woman of Deptford had spoke plain to Mr. Humphreys, ordering him, "Not to preach, to leave off doing good, and, in a word, to be still." We talked largely with her, and she was humbled in the dust, under a deep sense of the advantage Satan had gained over her.

In the evening, Mr. Acourt complained, that Mr. Nowers had hindered his going into our Society. Mr. Nowers answered, It was by Mr C. Wesley's order. "What, (said Mr. A——,) do you refuse admitting a person into your Society, only because he differs from you in opinion?" I answered, "No. But what opinion do you mean?" He said, "that of election. I hold a certain number is elected from eternity, and these must and shall be saved, and the rest of mankind, must and shall be damned; and many of your Society hold the same." I replied, "I never asked, whether they hold it or no. Only let them not trouble others by disputing about it." He said, "Nay, but I will dispute about it." "What, wherever you come?" "Yes, wherever I come." "Why then would you come among us, who you know are of another mind?" "Because you are all wrong, and I am resolved to set you all right." "I fear your coming with this view, would neither profit you nor us." He concluded, "Then I will go and tell all the world, that you and your brother are false prophets. And I tell you, in one fortnight, you will all be in confusion."

Fri. 20. I mentioned this to our Society, and without entering into the controversy, besought all of them who were weak in the faith, not to "receive one another to doubtful disputations;" but simply to follow after holiness, and the things that make for peace.

Sun. 22. Finding there was no time to delay without utterly destroying the cause of God, I began to execute what I had long designed, to strike at the root of the grand delusion. Accordingly, from these words of Jeremiah, "Stand ye in the way, ask for the old paths," I took occasion to give a plain account, both of the work which God had begun among us, and of the manner

wherein the enemy had sown his tares among the good seed, to this effect :—

“After we had wandered many years in the new path, of salvation by Faith and Works, about two years ago it pleased God to show us the old way, of salvation by Faith only. And many soon tasted of this salvation, ‘being justified freely, having peace with God, rejoicing in hope of the glory of God, and having his love shed abroad in their hearts.’ These now ran the way of his commandments; they performed all their duty to God and man. They walked in all the ordinances of the Lord; and through these means, which he had appointed for that end, received daily grace to help in time of need, and went on from faith to faith.

“But eight or nine months ago, certain men arose, speaking contrary to the doctrines we had received. They affirmed, ‘That we were all in a wrong way still; that we had no faith at all; that faith admits of no degrees, and consequently weak faith is no faith; that none is justified till he has a clean heart, and is incapable of any doubt or fear.’

“They affirmed also, ‘That there is no commandment in the New Testament, but to believe; that no other duty lies upon us; and that when a man does believe, he is not bound or obliged to do any thing which is commanded there: in particular, that he is not subject to ordinances, that is, (as they explained it,) is not bound or obliged to pray, to communicate, to read or hear the Scriptures; but may or may not use any of these things, (being in no bondage,) according as he find his heart free to it.’

“They farther affirmed, ‘That a believer cannot use any of these as a means of grace; that, indeed, there is no such thing as any means of grace, this expression having no foundation in Scripture; and that an unbeliever, or one who has not a clean heart, ought not to use them at all; ought not to pray, or search the Scriptures, or communicate, but to be still, *i.e.* leave off those ‘works of the law;’ and then he will surely receive faith, which, till he is still, he cannot have.’

“All these assertions I propose to consider. The first was, that weak faith is no faith.

“By weak faith I understand, 1. That which is mixed with fear, particularly of not enduring to the end. 2. That which is mixed with doubt, whether we have not

deceived ourselves, and whether our sins be indeed forgiven? 3. That which has not yet purified the heart fully, not from all its idols. And thus weak I find the faith of almost all believers to be, within a short time after they have first peace with God.

"Yet that weak faith is faith appears, 1. From St. Paul, 'Him that is weak in the faith, receive.' 2. From St. John, speaking of believers who were little children, as well as of young men and fathers. 3. From our Lord's own words, 'Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith: O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?—I have prayed for thee, (Peter,) that thy faith fail thee not.' Therefore, he then had faith. Yet so weak was that faith, that not only doubt and fear, but gross sin, in the same night, prevailed over him.

"Nevertheless he was 'clean by the word Christ had spoken to him,' i.e. justified; though it is plain he had not a clean heart.

"Therefore, there are degrees in faith; and weak faith may yet be true faith."

Mon. 23. I considered the second assertion, that there is but one commandment in the New Testament, viz. "To believe;" that no other duty lies upon us; and that a believer is not obliged to do any thing as commanded.

"How gross, palpable a contradiction is this to the whole tenor of the New Testament! Every part of which is full of commandments, from St. Matthew to the Revelation! But it is enough to observe, 1. That this bold affirmation is shamelessly contrary to our Lord's own words: 'Whosoever shall break one of the least of these commandments shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven;' for nothing can be more evident, than that he here speaks of more than one, of several commandments, which every soul, believer or not, is obliged to keep as commanded. 2. That this whole scheme is overturned from top to bottom by that other sentence of our Lord, 'When ye have done all that is commanded you, say, We have done no more than it was our duty to do.' 3. That, although to do what God commands is a believer's privilege, that does not affect the question. He does it nevertheless, as his bounden duty, and as a command of God. 4. That this is the surest evidence of his believing, according to our Lord's own words: 'If ye love me, (which cannot be unless ye believe,) keep my

commandments.' 5. That to desire to do what God commands, but not as a command, is to affect not freedom, but independency,—such independency as St. Paul had not; for, though 'the Son had made him free,' yet was he not without law to God, but 'under the law to Christ:' such as the holy angels have not; for they 'fulfil his commandments,' and hearken to the voice of his words: yea, such as Christ himself had not; for 'as the Father had given him commandment, so he spake.'"

Tues. 24. The substance of my exposition, in the morning, on, "Why yet are ye subject to ordinances?" was,

"From hence it has been inferred, 'That Christians are not subject to the ordinances of Christ;' that believers need not, and unbelievers may not use them; that these are not obliged and those are not permitted so to do; that these do not sin, when they abstain from them; but those do sin, when they do not abstain.

"But with how little reason this has been inferred, will sufficiently appear to all who consider,

"1. That the ordinances here spoken of by St. Paul are evidently Jewish ordinances; such as, touch not, taste not, handle not, and those, mentioned a few verses before, concerning meats and drinks, and new moons, and sabbaths. 2. That consequently this has no reference to the ordinances of Christ, such as prayer, communicating, and searching the Scriptures. 3. That Christ himself spake, that men ought always to pray; and commands, 'not to forsake the assembling ourselves together;' to search the Scriptures, and to eat bread and drink wine in remembrance of him. 4. That the commands of Christ oblige all who are called by his name, whether (in strictness) believers or unbelievers; seeing, 'whosoever breaketh the least of these commandments, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven.'"

In the evening I preached on, "Cast not away your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward."

"Ye who have known and felt your sins forgiven, cast not away your confidence, 1. Though your joy should die away, your love wax cold, and your peace itself be roughly assaulted. Though, 2. You should find doubt or fear, or strong and uninterrupted temptation; yea, though, 3. You should find a body of sin still in you, and thrusting sore at you that you might fall.

"The first case may be only a fulfilling of your Lord's words: 'Yet a little while and ye shall not see me. But he will come unto you again, and your hearts shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.'

"Your being in strong temptation, yea, though it should rise so high, as to throw you into an agony, or to make you fear that God had forgotten you, is no more a proof that you are not a believer, than our Lord's agony, and his crying, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' was a proof that he was not the Son of God.

"Your finding sin remaining in you still, is no proof that you are not a believer. Sin does remain in one that is justified, though it has not dominion over him. For he has not a clean heart at first, neither are all things as yet become new. But fear not, though you have an evil heart. Yet a little while and you shall be endued with power from on high, whereby you may purify yourselves, even as He is pure, and be holy, as He which hath called you is holy."

Wed. 25. From those words: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God," I took occasion to speak of the ordinances of God, as they are means of grace.

"Although this expression of our Church, 'means of grace,' be not found in Scripture, yet if the sense of it undeniably is, to cavil at the term, is a mere strife of words.

"But the sense of it is undeniably found in Scripture. For God hath in Scripture ordained prayer, reading or hearing, and the receiving the Lord's Supper, as the ordinary means of conveying his grace to man. And first, prayer: For thus saith the Lord, 'Ask and it shall be given you; If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God.' Here God plainly ordains prayer, as the means of receiving whatsoever grace we want; particularly, that wisdom from above, which is the chief fruit of the grace of God.

"Here likewise God commands all to pray, who desire to receive any grace from him. Here is no restriction as to believers or unbelievers; but, least of all, as to unbelievers; for such doubtless were most of those, to whom he said, 'Ask and it shall be given you.'

"We know, indeed, that the prayer of an unbeliever is full of sin. Yet let him remember that which is written of one who could not then believe, for he had not so much

as heard the Gospel: 'Cornelius, thy prayers and thine alms, are come up for a memorial before God.' "

Thur. 26. I showed concerning the Holy Scriptures, 1. That to search (i.e. read and hear them) is a command of God. 2. That this command is given to all, believers or unbelievers. 3. That this is commanded or ordained, as a means of grace; a means of conveying the grace of God to all, whether unbelievers (such as those to whom he first gave this command, and those to whom faith cometh by hearing) or believers; who by experience know, that all Scripture is profitable, or a means to this end, "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished to all good works."

Fri. 27. I preached on, "Do this in remembrance of me."

"In the ancient Church, every one who was baptized communicated daily. So in the Acts we read, 'They all continued daily in the breaking of bread, and in prayer.'

"But in latter times, many have affirmed, that the Lord's Supper is not a converting, but a confirming ordinance.

"And among us it has been diligently taught, that none but those who are converted, who have received the Holy Ghost, who are believers in the full sense, ought to communicate.

"But experience shows the gross falsehood of that assertion, that the Lord's Supper is not a converting ordinance. Ye are the witnesses. For many now present know, the very beginning of your conversion to God (perhaps, in some, the first deep conviction) was wrought at the Lord's Supper. Now one single instance of this kind overthrows the whole assertion.

"The falsehood of the other assertion appears, both from Scripture-precept and example. Our Lord commanded those very men who were then unconverted, who had not yet received the Holy Ghost, who (in the full sense of the word) were not believers, to "do this in remembrance of him." Here the precept is clear. And to these he delivered the elements with his own hands. Here is example, equally indisputable."

Sat. 28. I showed at large, 1. That the Lord's Supper was ordained by God, to be a means of conveying to men, either preventing, or justifying, or sanctifying grace, according to their several necessities. 2. That the per-

sons for whom it was ordained are, all those who know and feel that they want the grace of God, either to restrain them from sin, or to show their sins forgiven, or to renew their souls in the image of God. 3. That inasmuch as we come to his table, not to give Him any thing, but to receive whatsoever He sees best for us, there is no previous preparation indispensably necessary; but a desire to receive whatsoever He pleases to give. And, 4. That no fitness is required at the time of communicating, but a sense of our state, of our utter sinfulness and helplessness; every one who knows he is fit for hell, being just fit to come to Christ, in this as well as all other ways of his appointment.

Sun. 29. I preached in the morning at Moorfields, and in the evening at Kennington, on Titus iii. 8, and endeavoured, at both places, to explain and enforce the Apostle's direction, that those "who have believed, be careful to maintain good works." The works I particularly mentioned were, praying, communicating, searching the Scriptures; feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, assisting the stranger, and visiting or relieving those that are sick or in prison. Several of our brethren of Fetter-Lane, being met in the evening, Mr. Simpson told them I had been preaching up the works of the Law, "which, (added Mr. V——,) we believers are no more bound to obey, than the subjects of the King of England are bound to obey the laws of the King of France."

Wed. July 2. I went to the Society; but I found their hearts were quite estranged. Friday, 4, I met a little handful of them, who still stand in the old paths; but how long they may stand, God knoweth, the rest being continually pressing upon them. Wednesday, 9, I came to an explanation once more with them all together; but with no effect at all. Tuesday, 15, we had yet another conference at large, but in vain; for all continued in their own opinions.

Wed. 16. One desired me to look into an old book, and give her my judgment of it; particularly of what was added at the latter end. This, I found, was, "The Mystic Divinity of Dionysius," and several extracts nearly allied thereto, full of the same "super-essential darkness." I borrowed the book, and going in the evening to Fetter-Lane, read one of those extracts, to this effect:—

"The Scriptures are good; prayer is good; communi-

cating is good; relieving our neighbour is good; but to one who is not born of God, none of these is good, but all very evil. For him to read the Scriptures, or to pray, or to communicate, or to do any outward work, is deadly poison. First, let him be born of God; till then let him not do any of these things; for if he does, he destroys himself."

After reading this twice or thrice over, as distinctly as I could, I asked, "My brethren, is this right, or is it wrong?" Mr. Bell answered immediately, "It is right; it is all right. It is the truth, to this we must all come, or we can never come to Christ." Mr. Bray said, "I believe our brother Bell did not hear what you read, or did not rightly understand." But Mr. Bell replied short, "Yes; I heard every word; and I understand it well. I say, it is the truth; it is the very truth; it is the inward truth."

Many then laboured to prove, "That my brother and I laid too much stress upon the ordinances." To put this matter beyond dispute, "I (said Mr. Bowes) used the ordinances twenty years, yet I found not Christ; but I left them off only for a few weeks, and I found Him then; and I am now as closely united to Him as my arm is to my body."

One asked, "Whether they would suffer Mr. Wesley to preach at Fetter-Lane?" After a short debate, it was answered, "No: This place is taken for the Germans." Some asked, "Whether the Germans had converted any soul in England? Whether they had not done as much hurt, instead of good, raising a division of which we could see no end? And whether God did not many times use Mr. Wesley for the healing our divisions, when we were all in confusion?" Several roundly replied, "Confusion! What do you mean? We were never in any confusion at all." I said, "Brother Edmonds, you ought not to say so; because I have your letters now in my hands." Mr. Edmonds replied, "That is not the first time I have put darkness for light, and light for darkness."

We continued in useless debate till about eleven. I then gave them up to God.

Fri. 18. A few of us joined with my mother in the great sacrifice of thanksgiving; and then consulted, how to proceed with regard to our poor brethren of Fetter-Lane:

we all saw the thing was now come to a crisis, and were therefore unanimously agreed what to do.

Sun. 20. At Mr. Seward's earnest request I preached once more in Moorfields, on, "the work of faith, and the patience of hope, and the labour of love." A zealous man was so kind as to free us from most of the noisy careless hearers, (or spectators rather,) by reading, meanwhile, at a small distance, a chapter in the *Whole Duty of Man*. I wish neither he nor they may ever read a worse book,—though I can tell them of a better, the Bible.

In the evening I went with Mr. Seward to the Love-feast in Fetter-Lane; at the conclusion of which, having said nothing till then, I read a paper, the substance whereof was as follows:—

"About nine months ago, certain of you began to speak contrary to the doctrine we had till then received; the sum of what you asserted is this:—

"1. That there is no such thing as weak faith; that there is no justifying faith where there is ever any doubt or fear, or where there is not, in the full sense, a new, a clean heart.

"2. That a man ought not to use those ordinances of God, which our Church terms means of grace, before he has such a faith as excludes all doubt and fear, and implies a new, a clean heart.

"You have often affirmed, that 'to search the Scriptures, to pray, or to communicate, before we have this faith, is to seek salvation by works; and that, till these works are laid aside, no man can receive faith.'

"I believe these assertions to be flatly contrary to the word of God. I have warned you hereof again and again, and besought you to turn back to the law and the testimony. I have borne with you long, hoping you would turn; but as I find you more confirmed in the error of your ways, nothing now remains but that I should give you up to God; you that are of the same judgment, follow me."

I then, without saying any thing more, withdrew, as did eighteen or nineteen of the Society.

Tues. 22. Mr. Chapman, just come from Germany, gave me a letter from one of our (once) brethren there; wherein, after denying the gift of God, which he received in England, he advised my brother and me, no longer "to take upon us to teach and instruct poor souls; but to

deliver them up to the care of the Moravians, who alone were able to instruct them." "You (said he) only instruct them in such errors, that they will be damned at last;" and added, "St. Peter justly describes you, who 'have eyes full of adultery, and cannot cease from sin;' and take upon you to guide unstable souls, and lead them in the way of damnation."

Wed. 23. Our little company met at the Foundry, instead of Fetter-Lane. About twenty-five of our brethren God hath given us already, all of whom think and speak the same thing; seven or eight and forty likewise, of the fifty women that were in band, desired to cast in their lot with us.

Fri. Aug. 1. I described that "rest, which remaineth for the people of God." Sunday, 3d, at St. Luke's, our parish church, was such a sight, as, I believe, was never seen there before: Several hundred communicants, from whose very faces one might judge, that they indeed sought Him that was crucified.

Mon. 4. I dined with one, who told me in all simplicity, "Sir, I thought last week, there could be no such rest as you described; none in this world, wherein we should be so free, as not to desire ease in pain; but God has taught me better; for on Friday and Saturday, when I was in the strongest pain, I never once had one moment's desire of ease, but only that the will of God might be done."

In the evening many were gathered together at Long-Lane, on purpose to make a disturbance, having procured a woman to begin, well known in those parts, as neither fearing God nor regarding man. The instant she broke out, I turned full upon her, and declared the love our Lord had for her soul. We then prayed that he would confirm the word of his grace: she was struck to the heart, and shame covered her face. From her I turned to the rest, who melted away like water, and were as men that had no strength; but surely some of them shall find, who is their rock and their strong salvation.

Sat. 9. Instead of the letters I had lately received, I read a few of those formerly received from our poor brethren, who have since then denied the work of God, and vilely cast away their shield. O who shall stand, when the jealous God shall visit for these things?

Sun. 10. From Gal. vi. 3, I earnestly warned all who

had tasted the grace of God, 1. Not to think they were justified before they had a clear assurance, that God had forgiven their sins, bringing with it a calm peace, the love of God, and dominion over all sin. 2. Not to think themselves any thing, after they had this, but to press forward for the prize of their high calling, even a clean heart, thoroughly renewed after the image of God, in righteousness and true holiness.

Mon. 11. Forty or fifty of those who were seeking salvation, desired leave to spend the night together, at the Society-room, in prayer and giving thanks. Before ten I left them, and laid down; but I could have no quiet rest, being quite uneasy in my sleep, as I found others were too, that were asleep in other parts of the house. Between two and three in the morning, I was waked, and desired to come down stairs. I immediately heard such a confused noise, as if a number of men were all putting to the sword. It increased when I came into the room, and began to pray. One whom I particularly observed to be roaring aloud for pain, was J— W—, who had been always till then very sure that “none cried out but hypocrites:” so had Mrs. S—ms also; but she too now cried to God, with a loud and bitter cry. It was not long before God heard from his holy place: He spake, and all our souls were comforted: He bruised Satan under our feet, and sorrow and sighing fled away.

Sat. 16. I called on one, who, being at Long-Lane on Monday the 4th instant, was exceeding angry at those that “pretended to be in fits;” particularly at one who dropped down just by her. She was just going “to kick her out of the way,” when she dropped down herself, and continued in violent agonies for an hour. Being afraid, when she came to herself, that her mother would judge of her, as she herself had done of others, she resolved to hide it from her. But the moment she came into the house, she dropped down in as violent an agony as before: I left her weary and heavy laden, under a deep sense of the just judgment of God.

Sun. 17. I enforced that necessary caution, “Let him that standeth take heed lest he fall.” Let him that is full of joy and love, take heed lest he fall into pride; he that is in calm peace, lest he fall into desire; and he that is in heaviness through manifold temptations, lest he fall into anger or impatience.

I afterwards heard a sermon, setting forth the "duty of getting a good estate, and keeping a good reputation." Is it possible to deny, (supposing the Bible true,) that such a Preacher is "a blind leader of the blind?"

Tues. 19. I was desired to go and pray with one, who had sent for me several times before, lying in the New Prison, under sentence of death, which was to be executed in a few days. I went; but the gaoler said, "Mr. Wilson, the Curate of the parish, had ordered I should not see him."

Wed. 20. I offered remission of sins to a small serious congregation near Deptford. Toward the end a company of persons came in, dressed in habits fit for their work, and laboured greatly either to provoke, or divert the attention of the hearers; but no man answering them a word, they were soon weary, and went away.

Thur. 21. I was deeply considering those points, wherein our German brethren affirm we err from the faith, and reflecting how much holier some of them were than me, or any people I had yet known; but I was cut short in the midst by those words of St. Paul, 1 Tim. v. 21: "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things, without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."

Fri. 22. I was desired to pray with an old, hardened sinner, supposed to be at the point of death. He knew not me, nor ever had heard me preach: I spoke much, but he opened not his mouth; but no sooner did I name "the Saviour of sinners," than he burst out, "The Saviour of sinners indeed! I know it; for He has saved me. He told me so on Sunday morning; and He said, I should not die yet, till I had heard his children preach his Gospel, and had told my old companions in sin, that He is ready to save them too."

Sat. 23. A gentlewoman (one Mrs. C—) desired to speak with me, and related a strange story. On Saturday, the 16th instant, (as she informed me,) one Mrs. G., of Northampton, deeply convinced of sin, and therefore an abomination to her husband, was by him put into Bedlam. On Tuesday, she slipped out of the gate, with some other company; and, after a while, not knowing whither to go, sat down at Mrs. C.'s door. Mrs. C., knowing nothing of her, advised her the next day to go to Bedlam again, and

went with her, where she was then chained down, and treated in the usual manner. This is the justice of men! A poor highwayman is hanged, and Mr. G. esteemed a very honest man!

Thur. 28. I desired one who had seen affliction herself, to go and visit Mrs. G. in Bedlam, where it pleased God greatly to knit their hearts together, and with his comforts to refresh their souls.

Disputes being now at an end, and all things quiet and calm, on Monday, September 1, I left London, and the next evening found my brother at Bristol, swiftly recovering from his fever. At seven, it pleased God to apply those words to the hearts of many backsliders, "How shall I give thee up Ephraim? How shall I deliver thee Israel? How shall I make thee as Admah? How shall I set thee as Zeboim? Mine heart is turned within me: my repentings are kindled together." Hos. xi. 8.

Wed. 3. I met with one who, having been lifted up with the abundance of joy which God had given her, had fallen into such blasphemies and vain imaginations, as are not common to men. In the afternoon I found another instance, nearly, I fear, of the same kind: one, who after much of the love of God shed abroad in her heart, was become wise, far above what is written, and set her private revelations (so called) on the self same foot with the written word. She zealously maintained, 1. "That Christ had died for angels as well as men: 2. That none of the angels kept their first estate, but all sinned, less or more: 3. That by the death of Christ three things were effected: One part of the fallen spirits were elected, and immediately confirmed in holiness and happiness, who are now the holy angels; another part of them, having more deeply sinned, were reprobated, who are now devils; and the third part, allowed a farther trial, and in order thereto, sent down from heaven, and imprisoned in bodies of flesh and blood, who are now human souls." In the evening I earnestly besought them all, to keep clear of vain speculations, and seek only for the plain, practical "truth which is after godliness."

Thur. 4. A remarkable cause was tried. Some time since, several men made a great disturbance, during the evening sermon here, behaving rudely to the women, and striking the men who spake not to them. A constable standing by, pulled out his staff, and commanded them

to keep the peace : upon this, one of them swore he would be revenged ; and going immediately to a Justice, made oath, that he (the constable) had picked his pocket ; who was accordingly bound over to the next sessions. At these, not only the same man, but two of his companions, swore the same thing ; but there being eighteen or twenty witnesses on the other side, the Jury easily saw through the whole proceeding, and without going out at all, or any demur, brought in the prisoner, not guilty.

Fri. 5. Our Lord brought home many of his banished ones. In the evening we cried mightily unto Him, that brotherly love might continue and increase : and it was according to our faith.

Sat. 6. I met the bands in Kingswood, and warned them with all authority, "to beware of being wise above that is written, and to desire to know nothing but Christ crucified."

Mon. 8. We set out early in the morning, and the next evening came to London. Wednesday, 10th, I visited one that was in violent pain, and consumed away with pining sickness ; but in every thing giving thanks, and greatly rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. From her we went to another, dangerously ill of the small-pox, but desiring neither life nor ease, but only the holy will of God. If these are unbelievers, (as some of the still brethren have lately told them,) I am content to be an unbeliever all my days.

Thur. 11. I visited a poor woman, who, lying ill between her two sick children, without either physic or food convenient for her, was mightily praising God her Saviour ; and testifying, as often as she could speak, her desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ.

Sun. 14. As I returned home in the evening, I had no sooner stepped out of the coach than the mob, who were gathered in great numbers about my door, quite closed me in. I rejoiced, and blessed God, knowing this was the time I had long been looking for, and immediately spake to those that were next me of "righteousness and judgment to come." At first not many heard, the noise round about us being exceeding great ; but the silence spread farther and farther, till I had a quiet attentive congregation. And when I left them they all showed much love, and dismissed me with many blessings.

Tues. 16. Many more, who came in among us as lions,

288. Rev. John Wesley's Journal

in a short space became as lambs; the tears trickling apace down their cheeks, who at first most loudly contradicted and blasphemed. I wonder the Devil has not wisdom enough to discern, that he is destroying his own kingdom. I believe he has never yet, any one time, caused this open opposition to the truth of God without losing one or more of his servants, who were found of God while they sought Him not.

Wed. 17. A poor woman gave me an account of what I think ought never to be forgotten. "It was four years (she said) since her son, Peter Shaw, then nineteen or twenty years old, by hearing a sermon of Mr. Wh——y's, fell into great uneasiness. She thought he was ill, and would have sent for a physician, but he said, "No, no; send for Mr. Wh——." He was sent for, and came; and after asking a few questions, told her, "The boy is mad. Get a coach and carry him to Dr. M——. Use my name; I have sent several such to him." Accordingly she got a coach, and went with him immediately to Dr. M——'s house. When the Doctor came in, the young man rose and said, "Sir, Mr. Wh—— has sent me to you." The doctor asked, "Is Mr. Wh—— your Minister?" and bid him put out his tongue. Then, without asking any questions, he told his mother, "Choose your apothecary, and I will prescribe." According to his prescriptions they the next day blooded him largely, confined him to a dark room, and put a strong blister on each of his arms, with another over all his head. But still he was as mad as before, praying or singing, or giving thanks continually; of which having laboured to cure him for six weeks in vain, though he was now so weak he could not stand alone, his mother dismissed the doctor and apothecary, and let him be beside himself in peace.

Thur. 18. The prince of the air made another attempt, in defence of his tottering kingdom. A great number of men having got into the middle of the Foundry, began to speak big swelling words; so that my voice could hardly be heard, while I was reading the eleventh chapter of the Acts. But immediately after, the hammer of the word brake the rocks in pieces: all quietly heard the glad tidings of salvation, and some, I trust, not in vain.

Mon. 22. Wanting a little time for retirement, which it was almost impossible for me to have in London, I went

to Mr. Piers's, at Bexley; where, in the mornings and evenings, I expounded the Sermon on the Mount; and had leisure, during the rest of the day, for business of other kinds. On Saturday, 27th, I returned.

Sun. 28. I began expounding the same Scripture at London. In the afternoon, I described to a numerous congregation at Kennington, "the life of God in the soul." One person, who stood on the Mount, made a little noise at first; but a gentleman (whom I knew not) walked up to him, and, without saying one word, mildly took him by the hand and led him down. From that time he was quiet, till he went away.

When I came home, I found an innumerable mob round the door, who opened all their throats the moment they saw me. I desired my friends to go into the house, and then, walking into the midst of the people, "proclaimed the name of the Lord, gracious and merciful, and repenting him of the evil." They stood staring one at another. I told them, they could not flee from the face of this great God, and therefore besought them that we might all join together in crying to Him for mercy. To this they readily agreed. I then commended them to his grace, and went, undisturbed, to the little company within.

Tues. 30. As I was expounding the 12th of the Acts, a young man, with some others, rushed in, cursing and swearing vehemently, and so disturbed all near him, that after a time they put him out. I observed it, and called to let him come in, that our Lord might bid his chains fall off. As soon as the sermon was over, he came and declared before us all, That he was a smuggler, then going on that work, as his disguise, and the great bag he had with him, showed. But he said, "He must never do this more; for he was now resolved to have the Lord for his God."

Sun. 5. I explained the difference between being called a Christian, and being so; and God over-ruled the madness of the people, so that after I had spoke a few words, they were quiet and attentive to the end.

Mon. 6. While I was preaching at Islington, and rebuking sharply those that had made shipwreck of the faith, a woman dropped down, struck, as was supposed, with death, having the use of all her limbs quite taken from her: but she knew the next day, she should not die, but live, and declare the loving-kindness of the Lord.

Tues. 14. I met with a person who was to be pitied indeed. He was once a zealous Papist, but being convinced he was wrong, cast off Popery and Christianity together. He told me at once, "Sir, I scorn to deceive you, or any man living: don't tell me of your Bible: I value it not: I do not believe a word of it." I asked, "Do you believe there is a God? and what do you believe concerning Him?" He replied, "I know there is a God; and I believe Him to be the soul of all, the *Anima Mundi*; if he be not rather, as I sometimes think is more probable, the *To Πᾶν*, the whole compages of body and spirit, every where diffused. But farther than this, I know not: all is dark; my thought is lost. Whence I come, I know not: nor what or why I am; nor whither I am going. But this I know, I am unhappy: I am weary of life: I wish it were at an end." I told him, "I would pray to the God in whom I believed, to show him more light before he went hence; and to convince him, how much advantage every way a believer in Christ had over an infidel."

Sun. 19. I found one who was a fresh instance of that strange truth, "the servants of God suffer nothing." His body was well nigh torn asunder with pain; but God made all his bed in his sickness: so that he was continually giving thanks to God, and making his boast of his praise.

At five, I besought all that were present, to "be followers of God, as dear children, and to walk in love as Christ also loved us, and gave himself for us." Many who were gathered together for that purpose, endeavoured by shouting to drown my voice; but I turned upon them immediately, and offered them deliverance from their hard master: the word sunk deep into them, and they opened not their mouth. Satan, thy kingdom hath suffered loss: thou fool! how long wilt thou contend with Him that is mightier than thou?

Mon. 20. I began declaring that "Gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation," in the midst of the publicans and sinners, at Short's Gardens, Drury-Lane.

Wed. 22. I spent an hour with Mr. St—. O what *πιθανολογία* (persuasiveness of speech) is here! Surely, all the deceiveableness of unrighteousness. Who can escape, except God be with him?

Thur. 23. I was informed of an awful providence. A poor wretch, who was here last week; cursing and blas-

pheming, and labouring with all his might to hinder the word of God, had afterwards boasted to many, that "he would come again on Sunday, and no man should stop his mouth then." But on Friday God laid his hand upon him, and on Sunday he was buried.

Yet on Sunday the 26th, while I was enforcing that great question, with an eye to the spiritual resurrection, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" the many-headed beast began to roar again. I again proclaimed deliverance to the captives; and their deep attention showed, that the word sent to them did not return empty.

Mon. 27. The surprising news of poor Mr. S—d's death was confirmed. Surely God will maintain his own cause. Righteous art thou, O Lord!

Sat. Nov. 1. While I was preaching at Long-Lane, the storm was so exceeding high, that the house we were in shook continually; but so much the more did many rejoice in Him, whom the winds and the seas obey, finding they were ready to obey his call, if He should then require their souls of them.

Mon. 3. We distributed, as every one had need, among the numerous poor of our Society, the clothes of several kinds, which many, who could spare them, had brought for that purpose.

Mon. 10. Early in the morning I set out, and the next evening came to Bristol.

I found my brother (to supply whose absence I came) had been in Wales for some days; the next morning I inquired particularly into the state of the little flock. In the afternoon we met together, to pour out our souls before God, and beseech Him to bring back into the way, those who had erred from his commandments.

I spent the rest of the week in speaking with as many as I could, either comforting the feeble-minded, or confirming the wavering, or endeavouring to find and save that which was lost.

Sun. 16. After communicating at St. James's, our parish church, with a numerous congregation, I visited several of the sick. Most of them were ill of the spotted fever; which, they informed me, had been extremely mortal, few persons recovering from it: but God had said, "Hitherto shalt thou come." I believe there was not one with whom we were but recovered.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, I visited many more, partly of those that were sick or weak, partly of the lame that had been turned out of the way; having a confidence in God, that He would yet return unto every one of these, and leave a blessing behind Him.

Thur. 20. My brother returned from Wales; so, early on Friday, 21st, I left Bristol, and on Saturday, in the afternoon, came safe to London.

Tues. 25. After several methods proposed for employing those who were out of business, we determined to make a trial of one, which several of our brethren recommended to us. Our aim was, with as little expense as possible, to keep them at once from want and from idleness; in order to which we took twelve of the poorest, and a teacher, into the Society-room, where they were employed for four months, till Spring came on, in carding and spinning of cotton: and the design answered: they were employed and maintained, with very little more than the produce of their own labour.

Fri. 28. A gentleman came to me full of goodwill, to exhort me, "not to leave the Church; or (which was the same thing, in his account) to use extemporary prayer; which (said he) I will prove to a demonstration to be no prayer at all; for you cannot do two things at once. But thinking how to pray, and praying, are two things; *ergo* you cannot both think and pray at once." Now, may it not be proved by the self-same demonstration, that praying by a form is no prayer at all? *e.g.* "You cannot do two things at once. But reading and praying are two things; *ergo* you cannot both read and pray at once." Q.E.D.

In the afternoon I was with one of our sisters, who for two days was believed to be in the agonies of death; being then in travail with her first child: "but the pain, she declared, was as nothing to her; her soul being filled all that time with joy unspeakable."

Mon. Dec. 1. Finding many of our brethren and sisters offended at each other, I appointed the several accusers to come and speak face to face with the accused. Some of them came almost every day this week; and most of the offences vanished away. Where any doubt remained, I could only advise them each to look to his own heart, and to suspend their judgments of each other, till God should bring to light the hidden things of darkness.

Fri. 12. Having received many displeasing accounts concerning our little Society in Kingswood, I left London, and after some difficulty and danger, by reason of much ice in the road, on Saturday evening came to my brother at Bristol, who confirmed to me what I did not desire to hear.

Sun. 14. I went to Kingswood, intending, if it should please God, to spend some time there, if haply I might be an instrument in his hand, of repairing the breaches which had been made; that we might again, with one heart and one mouth, glorify the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mon. 15. I began expounding, both in the morning and evening, our Lord's Sermon upon the Mount. In the day-time I laboured to heal the jealousies and misunderstandings which had arisen, warning every man, and exhorting every man, "See that ye fall not out by the way."

Tues. 16. In the afternoon I preached on, "Let patience have her perfect work." The next evening Mr. Cennick came back from a little journey into Wiltshire. I was greatly surprised, when I went to receive him, as usual, with open arms, to observe him quite cold, so that a stranger would have judged he had scarce ever seen me before. However, for the present, I said nothing, but did him honour before the people.

Fri. 19. I pressed him to explain his behaviour. He told me many stories which he had heard of me; yet it seemed to me something was still behind: so I desired we might meet again in the morning.

Sat. 20. A few of us had a long conference together. Mr. C— now told me plainly, "He could not agree with me, because I did not preach the truth, in particular, with regard to election." We then entered a little into the controversy, but without effect.

Sun. 21. In the morning I enforced those words, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another." Three of our sisters I saw in the afternoon, all supposed to be near death, and calmly rejoicing in hope of speedily going to Him whom their souls loved.

At the Love-feast which we had in the evening at Bristol, seventy or eighty of our brethren and sisters from Kingswood were present, notwithstanding the heavy snow. We all walked back together, through the most violent storm of sleet and snow which I ever remember; the

snow also lying above knee deep in many places; but our hearts were warmed, so that we went on rejoicing and praising God for the consolation.

Wed. 24. My brother set out for London. Thursday, 25th, I met with such a case, as I do not remember either to have known or heard of before. L—a Sm—, after many years mourning, was filled with peace and joy in believing. In the midst of this, without any discernible cause, such a cloud suddenly overwhelmed her, that she could not believe her sins were ever forgiven her at all; nor that there was any such thing as forgiveness of sins. She could not believe that the Scriptures were true, nor that there was any heaven or hell, or angel, or spirit, or any God. One more I have since found in the same state; so sure it is, that all faith is the gift of God; which the moment He withdraws, the evil heart of unbelief will poison the whole soul.

Fri. 26. I returned early in the morning to Kingswood, in order to preach at the usual hour; but my congregation was gone to hear Mr. C—; so that (except a few from Bristol) I had not above two or three men, and as many women, the same number I had had once or twice before.

In the evening I read (nearly) through a treatise of Dr. John Edwards, on the "deficiency of human knowledge and learning." Surely, never man wrote like this man! at least, none of all whom I have seen. I have not seen so haughty, overbearing, pedantic a writer! Stiff and trifling in the same breath; positive and opinionated to the last degree, and of course treating others with no more good manners than justice; but, above all, sour, ill-natured, morose without a parallel, which indeed is his distinguishing character. Be his opinion right or wrong, if Dr. Edwards's temper were the Christian temper, I would abjure Christianity for ever.

Thur. 30. I was sent for by one who had been a zealous opposer of this way: but the lover of souls now opened her eyes, and cut her off from trusting in the multitude of her good works; so that finding no other hope left, she fled, poor and naked, to the blood of the covenant, and a few days after, gladly gave up her soul into the hands of her faithful Redeemer.

At six, the body of Alice Philips being brought into the room, I explained, "To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise." This was she whom her master turned away

the last year, "for receiving the Holy Ghost;" and she had then scarce where to lay her head; but she hath now a house of God, eternal in the heavens.

Wed. 31. Many from Bristol came over to us, and our love was greatly confirmed toward each other. At half an hour after eight, the house was filled from end to end, where we concluded the year, wrestling with God in prayer, and praising Him for the wonderful work which He had already wrought upon earth.

Jan. 1, 1741. I explained, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." But many of our brethren, I found, had no ears to hear; having disputed away both their faith and love. In the evening, out of the fulness that was given me, I expounded those words of St. Paul, (indeed of every true believer,) "To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Sat. 3. The bodies of Anne Cole and Elizabeth Davis were buried. I preached before the burial, on, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit: for they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them." Some time after Elizabeth Davis was speechless, being desired to hold up her hand, if she knew she was going to God, she looked up, and immediately held up both her hands. On Wednesday I had asked Anne Cole, whether she chose to live or die? She said, "I do not choose either; I choose nothing; I am in my Saviour's hands, and I have no will but his: yet I know He will restore me soon." And so He did, in a few hours, to the paradise of God.

Sun. 4. I showed the absolute necessity of "forgetting the things that are behind," whether works, sufferings or gifts, if we would "press toward the mark of the prize of our high calling." In the evening, all the bands being present, both of Bristol and Kingswood, I simply related what God had done, by me, for them of Kingswood in particular; and what return many of them had made, for several months last past, by their continual disputes, divisions and offences, causing me to go heavily all the day long.

Wed. 7. I found another believer, patiently waiting for the salvation of God, desiring neither health, nor ease, nor life, nor death, but only that His will should be done.

Sun. 11. I met with a surprising instance of the power of the Devil. While we were at the room, Mrs. J—s,

296 ' Rev. John Wesley's Journal

sitting at home, took the Bible to read; but on a sudden threw it away, saying, "I am good enough; I will never read or pray more." She was in the same mind when I came; often repeating, "I used to think I was full of sin, and that I sinned in every thing I did; but now I know better; I am a good Christian; I never did any harm in my life; I don't desire to be any better than I am." She spoke many things to the same effect, plainly showing that the spirit of pride and of lies had the full dominion over her. Monday, 12th, I asked, "Do you desire to be healed?" She said, "I am whole." "But do you desire to be saved?" She replied, "I am saved; I ail nothing; I am happy." Yet it was easy to discern she was in the most violent agony, both of body and mind; sweating exceedingly, notwithstanding the severe frost, and not continuing in the same posture a moment. Upon our beginning to pray she raged beyond measure, but soon sunk down as dead: in a few minutes she revived, and joined in prayer. We left her, for the present, in peace.

Mon. 12. In the evening our souls were so filled with the spirit of prayer and thanksgiving, that I could scarce tell how to expound, till I found where it is written, "My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord. With my mouth will I ever be shewing thy truth, from one generation to another."

All this day Mrs. J——s was in a violent agony, till, starting up in the evening, she said, "Now they have done; they have just done. C—— prayed, and Humphreys preached; (and indeed so they did;) and they are coming hither as fast as they can." Quickly after they came in. She immediately cried out, "Why, what do you come for? You can't pray; you know you can't." And they could not open their mouths; so that after a short time they were constrained to leave her as she was.

Many came to see her on Tuesday, to every one of whom she spoke, concerning either their actual or their heart sins, and that so closely that several of them went away in more haste than they came. In the afternoon Mr. J—— sent to Kingswood for me. She told him, "Mr. Wesley won't come to-night; he will come in the morning. But God has begun, and he will end the work by himself; before six in the morning I shall be well." And about a quarter before six the next morning, after lying quiet a-while, she broke out, "Peace be unto thee;

(her husband;) peace be unto this house; the peace of God is come to my soul. I know that my Redeemer liveth." And for several days her mouth was filled with his praise, and her talk was wholly of his wondrous works.

Thur. 15. I went to one of our brothers, who being (as was supposed) struck with death, was rejoicing with joy unspeakable; his mouth overflowed with praise, and his eyes with tears, in hope of going soon to Him he loved.

Mon. 18. I found, from several accounts, it was absolutely necessary for me to be at London. I therefore desired the Society to meet in the evening, and having settled things in the best manner I could, on Tuesday set out, and on Wednesday evening met our brethren at the Foundry.

Thur. 22. I began expounding where my brother had left off; viz. at the 4th chapter of the First Epistle of St. John. He had not preached the morning before, nor intended to do it any more. "The Philistines are upon thee, Samson." But the Lord is not "departed from thee." He shall strengthen thee yet again, and thou shalt be "avenged of them, for the loss of thy eyes."

Sun. 25. I enforced that great command, "As we have opportunity let us do good unto all men;" and in the evening, those solemn words: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."

Wed. 28. Our old friends, Mr. Gambold and Mr. Hall, came to see my brother and me. The conversation turned wholly on silent prayer, and quiet waiting for God, which they said was the only possible way to attain living, saving faith.

Suenum cantus, et Cices pocula nosti?

Was there ever so pleasing a scheme? But where is it written? Not in any of those books which I account the oracles of God. I allow, if there is a better way to God than the scriptural way, this is it. But the prejudice of education so hangs upon me, that I cannot think there is; I must therefore still wait in the Bible way, from which this differs as light from darkness.

Sun. Feb. 1. A private letter, wrote to me by Mr. Whitefield, having been printed without either his leave or mine, great numbers of copies were given to our people,

298 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

both at the door and in the Foundry itself. Having procured one of them, I related (after preaching) the naked fact to the congregation, and told them, "I will do just what I believe Mr. Whitefield would, were he here himself." Upon which I tore it in pieces before them all. Every one who had received it did the same; so that in two minutes there was not a whole copy left. Ah poor Ahithophel!

Ibi omnis effusus labor!

Wed. 4. Being the general fast-day, I preached in the morning on those words: "Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord. Shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Coming from the service at St. Luke's, I found our house so crowded, that the people were ready to tread one upon another. I had not designed to preach; but seeing such a congregation, I could not think it right to send them empty away; and therefore expounded the parable of the barren fig-tree. O that it may at length bear fruit!

From hence I went to Deptford, where many poor wretches were got together, utterly void both of common sense and common decency. They cried aloud, as if just come from "among the tombs;" but they could not prevail against the Holy One of God. Many of them were altogether confounded, and I trust will come again with a better mind.

Tues. 10. (Being Shrove-Tuesday) before I began to preach, many men of the baser sort, having mixed themselves with the women, behaved so indecently as occasioned much disturbance; a constable commanded them "to keep the peace;" in answer to which they knocked him down. Some who were near seized on two of them, and, by shutting the doors, prevented any farther contest. Those two were afterwards carried before a Magistrate, but, on their promise of better behaviour, were discharged.

Thur. 12. My brother returned from Oxford, and preached on, "The true way of waiting for God;" thereby dispelling at once the fears of some and the vain hopes of others, who had confidently affirmed, "that Mr. Charles Wesley was still already, and would come to London no more."

Mon. 16. While I was preaching in Long-Lane, the host of the aliens gathered together; and one large stone (many of which they threw) went just over my shoulder;

but no one was hurt in any degree; for Thy "kingdom ruleth over all."

All things now being settled according to my wish, on Tuesday, 17th, I left London. In the afternoon I reached Oxford, and leaving my horse there, set out on foot for Stanton-Harcourt. The night overtook me in about an hour, accompanied with heavy rain. Being wet and weary, and not well knowing my way, I could not help saying in my heart, (though ashamed of my want of resignation to God's will,) O that thou wouldst "stay the bottles of heaven!" Or at least give me light, or an honest guide, or some help in the manner thou knowest! Presently the rain ceased, the moon broke out, and a friendly man overtook me, who set me upon his own horse, and walked by my side, till we came to Mr. Gambold's door.

Wed. 18. I walked on to Burford; on Thursday to Malmsbury, and the next day to Bristol. Saturday, 21st, I inquired as fully as I could concerning the divisions and offences which, notwithstanding the earnest cautions I had given, began afresh to break out in Kingswood. In the afternoon I met a few of the bands there; but it was a cold, uncomfortable meeting. Sunday, 22d, I endeavoured to show them the ground of many of their mistakes, from those words, "Ye need not that any man teach you, but as that same anointing teacheth you;" a text which had been frequently brought in support of the rankest enthusiasm. Mr. Cennick, and fifteen or twenty others, came up to me after Sermon. I told them, "They had not done right, in speaking against me behind my back." Mr. C——, Ann A——, and Thomas Bissicks, as the mouth of the rest, replied, "They had said no more of me behind my back than they would say to my face; which was, that I did preach up man's faithfulness, and not the faithfulness of God."

In the evening was our Love-feast in Bristol; in the conclusion of which, there being mention made that many of our brethren at Kingswood had formed themselves into a separate Society, I related to them at large the effects of the separations which had been made from time to time in London; and likewise the occasion of this, viz. Mr. C——'s preaching other doctrine than that they had before received. The natural consequence was, that when my brother and I preached the same which we had done from

the beginning, many censured and spoke against us both; whence arose endless strife and confusion.

T—— B—— replied, "Why, we preached false doctrine; we preached, that there is righteousness in man." I said, "So there is, after the righteousness of Christ is imputed to him through faith. But who told you, that what we preached was false doctrine? Whom would you have believed this from, but Mr. C——?" Mr. C—— answered, "You *do* preach righteousness in man; I did say this; and I say it still: however, we are willing to join with you. But we will also meet apart from you; for we meet to confirm one another in those truths which you speak against."

I replied, "You should have told me this before, and not have supplanted me in my own house, stealing the hearts of the people, and, by private accusations, separating very friends." He said, "I have never privately accused you." I said, "My brethren judge;" and read as follows:—

To the Reverend Mr. George Whitefield,

MY DEAR BROTHER,

Jan. 17, 1741.

"That you might come quickly, I have written a second time.

"I sit solitary, like Eli, waiting what will become of the ark. And while I wait and fear the carrying of it away from among my people, my trouble increases daily. How glorious did the Gospel seem once to flourish in Kingswood! I spake of the everlasting love of Christ with sweet power.—But now brother Charles is suffered to open his mouth against this truth, while the frightened sheep gaze and fly, as if no shepherd was among them. It is just as though Satan was now making war with the saints, in a more than common way. O pray for the distressed lambs, yet left in this place, that they faint not. Surely they would, if preaching would do it; for they have nothing whereon to rest (who now attend on the sermons) but their own faithfulness.—

"With universal redemption, brother Charles pleases the world—brother John follows him in every thing. I believe no Atheist can more preach against predestination than they. And all who believe election are counted enemies to God, and called so.

"Fly, dear brother. I am as alone: I am in the midst of the plague. If God give thee leave, make haste."

Mr. C—— stood up and said, "That letter is mine; I sent it to Mr. Whitefield; and I do not retract any thing in it, nor blame myself for sending it."

Perceiving some of our brethren began to speak with warmth, I desired he would meet me at Kingswood on Saturday, where each of us could speak more freely, and that all things might sleep till then.

Tues. 24. The bands meeting at Bristol, I read over the names of the United Society, being determined that no disorderly walker should remain therein. Accordingly, I took an account of every person, 1. To whom any reasonable objection was made. 2. Who was not known to and recommended by some on whose veracity I could depend. To those who were sufficiently recommended, tickets were given on the following days. Most of the rest I had face to face with their accusers; and such as either appeared to be innocent, or confessed their faults and promised better behaviour, were then received into the Society. The others were put upon trial again, unless they voluntarily expelled themselves. About forty were by this means separated from us; I trust only for a season.

Sat. 28. I met the Kingswood bands again, and heard all who desired it at large; after which I read the following paper:—

"By many witnesses it appears, that several members of the Band Society in Kingswood have made it their common practice to scoff at the preaching of Mr. John and Charles Wesley; that they have censured and spoken evil of them behind their backs, at the very time they professed love and esteem to their faces; that they have studiously endeavoured to prejudice other members of that Society against them; and, in order thereto, have belied and slandered them in divers instances.

"Therefore, not for their opinions, nor for any of them, (whether they be right or wrong,) but for the causes above-mentioned, viz. For their scoffing at the word and Ministers of God; for their tale-bearing, backbiting, and evil-speaking; for their dissembling, lying, and slandering,

"I, John Wesley, by the consent and approbation of the Society in Kingswood, do declare the persons above-

mentioned to be no longer members thereof. Neither will they be so accounted until they shall openly confess their fault, and thereby do what in them lies to remove the scandal they have given."

At this they seemed a little shocked at first; but Mr. C——, T—— B——, and A—— A—— soon recovered, and said, "They had heard both my brother and me many times preach Popery. However, they would join with us if we would; but that they would not own they had done any thing amiss."

I desired them to consider of it yet again, and give us their answer the next evening.

The next evening, March 1, they gave the same answer as before. However, I could not tell how to part; but exhorted them to wait yet a little longer, and wrestle with God, that they might know his will concerning them.

Fri. 6. Being still fearful of doing any thing rashly, or contrary to the great law of love, I consulted again with many of our brethren concerning the farther steps I should take. In consequence of which, on Sat. 7, all who could of the Society being met together, I told them, "Open dealing was best; and I would therefore tell them plainly what I thought (setting all opinion aside) had been wrong in many of them: viz.

1. "Their despising the Ministers of God, and slighting his ordinances;
2. Their not speaking or praying when met together till they were sensibly moved thereto; and,
3. Their dividing themselves from their brethren, and forming a separate Society:

"That we could not approve of delaying this matter, because the confusion that was already increased daily:

"That, upon the whole, we believed the only way to put a stop to these growing evils was, for every one now to take his choice, and quit one Society or the other."

T—— B—— replied, "It is our holding election is the true cause of your separating from us." I answered, "You know in your own conscience it is not. There are several predestinarians in our Societies, both at London and Bristol; nor did I ever yet put any one out of either because he held that opinion."

He said, "Well, we will break up our Society, on condition you will receive and employ Mr. C—— as you did before."

I replied, "My brother has wronged me much; but he doth not say, 'I repent.'"

Mr C—— said, "Unless in not speaking in your defence, I do not know that I have wronged you at all."

I rejoined, "It seems, then, nothing remains but for each to choose which Society he pleases."

Then, after a short time spent in prayer, Mr C—— went out, and about half of those who were present with him.

Sun. 8. After preaching at Bristol, on the abuse and the right use of the Lord's Supper, I earnestly besought them at Kingswood to beware of "offending in tongue," either against justice, mercy, or truth. After sermon, the remains of our Society met, and found we had great reason to bless God for that, after fifty-two were withdrawn, we had still upwards of ninety left. O may these, at least, hold the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!

I will shut up this melancholy subject with part of a letter wrote by my brother about this time.

"If you think proper, you may show brother C—— what follows." (N.B. I did not think it proper then.)

"My dearest brother John C——, in much love and tenderness I speak. You came to Kingswood upon my brother's sending for you. You served under him in the Gospel as a son. I need not say how well he loved you. You used the authority he gave you to overthrow his doctrine: you every where contradicted it; (whether true or false is not the question;) but you ought first to have fairly told him, 'I preach contrary to you. Are you willing, notwithstanding, that I should continue in your house gainsaying you?' If you are not, I have no place in these regions. You have a right to this open dealing. I now give you fair warning: Shall I stay here opposing you, or shall I depart?"

"My brother, have you dealt thus honestly and openly with him? No; but you have stolen away the people's heart from him; and when some of them basely treated their best friend, God only excepted, how patiently did you take it? When did you ever vindicate us as we have you? Why did you not plainly tell them, 'You are eternally indebted to these men. Think not that I will stay among you, to head a party against my dearest friend——and brother, as he suffers me to call him, having humbled himself for my sake, and given me (no bishop,

priest, or deacon) the right hand of fellowship. If I hear that one word more is spoken against him, I will leave you that moment, and never see your face more.'

"This had been just and honest, and not more than we have deserved at your hands. I say we; for God is my witness, how condescendingly loving I have been toward you: yet you did so forget yourself as both openly and privately to contradict my doctrine, while, in the mean time, I was as a deaf man, that heard not, neither answered a word either in private or public.

"Ah, my brother! I am distressed for you; I would—but you will not receive my saying; therefore I can only commit you to Him who hath commanded us to forgive one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven us."

Sun. 15. I preached twice at Kingswood, and twice at Bristol, on those words of a troubled soul: "O that I had wings like a dove; for then would I flee away and be at rest."

One of the notes I received to-day was as follows:—"A person whom God has visited with a fever, and has wonderfully preserved seven days in a hay-mow, without any sustenance but now and then a little water out of a ditch, desires to return God thanks. The person is present and ready to declare what God has done both for his body and soul. For the three first days of his illness he felt nothing but the terrors of the Lord, greatly fearing lest he should drop into hell; till after long and earnest prayer, he felt himself given up to the will of God, and equally content to live or die; then he fell into a refreshing slumber, and awaked full of peace and the love of God."

Tues. 17. From these words, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right," I preached a sermon (which I have not done before in Kingswood school since it was built) directly on predestination. On Wednesday, (and so every Wednesday and Thursday,) I saw the sick in Bristol; many of whom I found were blessing God for his seasonable visitation. In the evening I put those of the women who were grown slack into distinct bands by themselves, and sharply reprov'd many for their unfaithfulness to the grace of God; who bore witness to his word by pouring upon us all the spirit of mourning and supplication.

Thur. 19. I visited many of the sick, and, among the rest, J—— W——, who was in grievous pain both of

body and mind. After a short time spent in pray we left her; but her pain was gone; her soul being in full peace, and her body also so strengthened, that she immediately rose, and the next day went abroad.

Sat. 21. I explained in the evening the 33d chapter of Ezekiel: in applying which I was suddenly seized with such a pain in my side that I could not speak. I knew my remedy, and immediately knecled down; in a moment the pain was gone, and the voice of the Lord cried aloud to the sinners, "Why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

Mon. 23. I visited the sick in Kingswood; one of whom surprised me much. Her husband died of the fever some days before; she was seized immediately after his death, then her eldest daughter, then another and another of her children, six of whom were now sick round about her, without either physic, money, food, or any visible means of procuring it. Who but a Christian can at such a time say from the heart, "Blessed be the name of the Lord?"

Finding all things now, both at Kingswood and Bristol, far more settled than I expected, I complied with my brother's request, and setting out on Wednesday, 25, the next day came to London.

Sat. 28. Having heard much of Mr. Whitefield's unkind behaviour, since his return from Georgia, I went to him to hear him speak for himself, that I might know how to judge. I much approved of his plainness of speech. He told me, "He and I preached two different Gospels, and, therefore, he not only would not join with, or give me the right hand of fellowship, but was resolved publicly to preach against me and my brother, wheresoever he preached at all." Mr. Hall (who went with me) put him in mind of the promise he had made but a few days before, that, "Whatever his private opinion was, he would never publicly preach against us." He said, "That promise was only an effect of human weakness, and he was now of another mind."

Mon. 30. I fixed an hour every day for speaking with each of the bands, that no disorderly walker might remain among them, nor any of a careless or contentious spirit; and the hours from ten to two, on every day but Saturday, I set apart for speaking with any who should desire it.

Wed. April 1. At his earnest and repeated request, I went to see one under sentence of death in the New Prison; but the keeper told me, "Mr. Wilson (the Curate

306 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

of the parish) had given charge I should not speak with him." I am clear from the blood of this man; let Mr. Wilson answer for it to God.

Sat. 4. I believed both love and justice required that I should speak my sentiments freely to Mr. Wh——, concerning the letter he had published, said to be "in answer to my Sermon on Free-grace." The sum of what I observed to him was this: 1. That it was quite imprudent to publish it at all, as being only the putting of weapons into their hands, who loved neither the one nor the other. 2. That if he was constrained to bear his testimony (as he termed it) against the error I was in, he might have done it by publishing a treatise on this head, without ever calling my name in question. 3. That what he had published was a mere burlesque upon an answer, leaving four of my eight arguments untouched, and handling the other four in so gentle a manner, as if he was afraid they would burn his fingers: However, that 4. He had said enough, of what was wholly foreign to the question, to make an open (and, probably, irreparable) breach between him and me; seeing, "for a treacherous wound, and for the bewraying of secrets, every friend will depart."

Mon. 6. I had a long conversation with Peter Böhler. I marvel how I refrain from joining these men; I scarce ever see any of them but my heart burns within me; I long to be with them, and yet I am kept from them.

Tues. 7. I dined with one who had been a professed Atheist for upwards of twenty years; but coming some months since to make sport with the Word of God, it cut him to the heart, and he could have no rest day nor night till the God whom he had denied spoke peace to his soul.

In the evening, having desired all the bands to meet, I read over the names of the United Society, and marked those who were of a doubtful character, that full inquiry might be made concerning them. On Thursday, at the meeting of that Society, I read over the names of these, and desired to speak with each of them the next day, as soon as they had opportunity. Many of them afterwards gave sufficient proof, that they were seeking Christ in sincerity. The rest I determined to keep on trial, till the doubts concerning them were removed.

Tues. 14. I was much concerned for one of our sisters, who having been but a few times with the still brethren,

was on a sudden so much wiser than her teachers, that I could neither understand her, nor she me. Nor could I help being a little surprised at the profound indifference she showed, who a few days before would have plucked out her eyes, had it been possible, and given them to me.

Wed. 15. I explained, at Greyhound-Lane, the latter part of the fourth chapter to the Ephesians. I was so weak in body, that I could hardly stand; but my spirit was much strengthened.

I found myself growing sensibly weaker all Thursday, so that on Friday the 17th, I could scarce get out of bed, and almost as soon as I was up, was constrained to lie down again. Nevertheless I made shift to drag myself on, in the evening, to Short's Gardens. Having, not without difficulty, got up the stairs, I read those words, (though scarce intelligibly, for my voice too was almost gone,) "Whom he did foreknow, he did also predestinate." In a moment both my voice and strength returned. And from that time, for some weeks, I found such bodily strength as I had never done before, since my landing in America.

Mon. 20. Being greatly concerned for those who were tossed about with divers winds of doctrine, many of whom were again entangled in sin, and carried away captive by Satan at his will; I besought God to show me where this would end, and opened my Bible on these words: "And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil nor any thing that they had taken to them. David recovered all."

Tues. 21. I wrote to my brother, then at Bristol, in the following words:—

"As yet I dare in no wise join with the Moravians: 1. Because their general scheme is mystical, not scriptural, refined in every point above what is written, immeasurably beyond the plain Gospel. 2. Because there is darkness and closeness in all their behaviour, and guile in almost all their words. 3. Because they not only do not practise, but utterly despise and decry self-denial and the daily cross. 4. Because they conform to the world, in wearing gold, and gay or costly apparel. 5. Because they are by no means zealous of good works, or at least only to their own people: for these reasons (chiefly) I will rather, God being my helper, stand quite alone than join with them;

308 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

I mean, till I have full assurance, that they are better acquainted with the 'truth as it is in Jesus.'"

Fri. May 1. I was with one who told me, "She had been hitherto taught of man; but now she was taught of God only." She added, "That God had told her, not to partake of the Lord's Supper any more, since she fed upon Christ continually." O who is secure from Satan transforming himself into an angel of light!

In the evening I went to a little Love-feast which Peter Böhler made for those ten, who joined together on this day three years, to confess our faults one to another. Seven of us were present; one being sick, and two unwilling to come. Surely the time will return, when there shall be again,

"Union of mind, as in us all one soul!"

Sat. 2. I had a conversation of several hours with P. Böhler and Mr. Spangenberg. Our subject was, a new creature; Mr. Spangenberg's account of which was this:—

"The moment we are justified, a new creature is put into us. This is otherwise termed, the new man.

"But, notwithstanding, the old creature, or the old man, remains in us till the day of our death.

"And in this old man there remains an old heart, corrupt and abominable. For inward corruption remains in the soul, as long as the soul remains in the body.

"But the heart which is in the new man is clean. And the new man is stronger than the old; so that though corruption continually strives, yet, while we look to Christ, it cannot prevail."

I asked him, "Is there still an old man in you?" He said, "Yes; and will be as long as I live." I said, "Is there then corruption in your heart?" He replied, "In the heart of my old man there is; but not in the heart of my new man." I asked, "Does the experience of your brethren agree with yours?" He answered, "I know what I have now spoken is the experience of all the brethren and sisters throughout our Church."

A few of our brethren and sisters sitting by, then spoke what they experienced. He told them, (with great emotion, his hand trembling much,) "You all deceive your own souls. There is no higher state than that I have described. You are in a very dangerous error. You

know not your own hearts. You fancy your corruptions are taken away, whereas they are only covered. Inward corruption never can be taken away, till our bodies are in the dust."

Was there inward corruption in our Lord? Or, cannot the servant be as his Master?

Sun. 3. I gave the scriptural account of one who is in Christ a new creature, from whom "old things are passed away," and in whom "all things are become new." In the afternoon I explained at Marybone-Fields, to a vast multitude of people, "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good. And what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" The Devil's children fought valiantly for their master, that his kingdom should not be destroyed. And many stones fell on my right hand and on my left. But when I began to examine them closely, what reward they were to have for their labour, they vanished away like smoke.

Wed. 6. Was a day on which we agreed to meet for prayer and humbling our souls before God, if haply he might show us his will concerning our re-union with our brethren of Fetter-Lane. And to this intent all the men and women bands met at one in the afternoon. Nor did our Lord cast out our prayer, or leave himself without witness among us: but it was clear to all, even those who were before the most eagerly desirous of it, that the time was not come: 1. Because they had not given up their most essentially erroneous doctrines; and, 2. Because many of us had found so much guile in their words, that we could scarce tell what they really held, and what not?

Thur. 7. I reminded the United Society, that many of our brethren and sisters had not needful food; many were destitute of convenient clothing; many were out of business, and that without their own fault; and many sick and ready to perish; that I had done what in me lay to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to employ the poor, and to visit the sick; but was not alone sufficient for these things; and therefore desired all whose hearts were as my heart,

1. To bring what clothes each could spare, to be distributed among those that wanted most.

2. To give weekly a penny, or what they could afford, for the relief of the poor and sick.

"My design (I told them) is, to employ for the present all the women who are out of business, and desire it, in knitting.

"To these we will first give the common price for what work they do, and then add, according as they need.

"Twelve persons are appointed to inspect these, and to visit and provide things needful for the sick.

"Each of these is to visit all the sick within their district, every other day; and to meet on Tuesday evening, to give an account of what they have done, and consult what can be done farther."

This week the Lord of the harvest began to put in his sickle among us. On Tuesday our brother Price, our sister Bowes on Wednesday, to-day our sister Hawthorn died. They all went in full and certain hope to Him whom their soul loved.

Fri. 8. I found myself much out of order. However I made shift to preach in the evening. But on Saturday my bodily strength quite failed, so that for several hours I could scarce lift up my head. Sunday, 10th, I was obliged to lie down most part of the day, being easy only in that posture. Yet in the evening my weakness was suspended, while I was calling sinners to repentance. But at our Love-feast, which followed, beside the pain in my back and head, and the fever which still continued upon me, just as I began to pray, I was seized with such a cough, that I could hardly speak. At the same time came strongly into my mind, "These signs shall follow them that believe."—I called on Jesus aloud, to increase my faith, and to confirm the word of his grace. While I was speaking, my pain vanished away. The fever left me. My bodily strength returned. And for many weeks I felt neither weakness nor pain. "Unto thee, O Lord, do I give thanks."

Thur. 14. Hearing that one was in a high fever, of whom I had for some time stood in doubt, I went to her and asked, How she did? She replied, "I am very ill,—but I am very well. O I am happy, happy, happy; for my spirit continually rejoices in God my Saviour. All the angels in heaven rejoice in my Saviour, and I rejoice with them, for I am united to Jesus."

She added, "How the angels rejoice over an heir of salvation! How they now rejoice over me! And I am

partaker of their joy. O my Saviour, how ~~Happy~~ happy am I in thee!"

Fri. 15. I called again: she was saying as I came in, "My beloved is mine; and He hath cleansed me from all sin. O how far is the heaven above the earth! So far hath He set my sins from me. O how did He rejoice, when 'He was heard in that He feared?' He was heard, and He gained a possibility of salvation for me and all mankind. It is finished: his grace is free for all: I am a witness: I was the chief of sinners, a backsliding sinner, a sinner against light and love. But I am washed: I am cleansed."

I asked, Do you expect to die now? She said, "It is not shown me that I shall. But life or death is all one to me. I shall not change my company. Yet I shall more abundantly rejoice, when we stand before the Lord; you and I, and all the other children which He hath given you."

In the evening I called upon her again, and found her weaker, and her speech much altered. I asked her, Do you now believe? Do not you find your soul in temptation? She answered, smiling and looking up, "There is the Lamb. And where He is, what is temptation? I have no darkness, no cloud. The enemy may come; but he hath no part in me." I said, But does not your sickness hinder you? She replied, "Nothing hinders me. It is the Spirit of my Father that worketh in me. And nothing hinders that Spirit. My body indeed is weak and in pain; but my soul is all joy and praise."

Sat. 16. I mentioned this to Peter Böhler; but he told me, "There is no such state on earth. Sin will and must always remain in the soul. The old man will remain till death. The old nature is like an old tooth. You may break off one bit, and another and another; but you can never get it all away: the stump of it will stay as long as you live; and sometimes will ache too."

Mon. 18. At the pressing instance of my brother I left London, and the next evening met him at Bristol. I was a little surprised when I came into the room, just after he had ended his sermon. Some wept aloud; some clapped their hands; some shouted, and the rest sang praise; with whom (having soon recovered themselves) the whole congregation joined. So, (I trust,) if ever God were pleased that we should suffer for the truth's

312 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

sake, all other sounds would soon be swallowed up in the voice of praise and thanksgiving.

Wed. 20. I spent most of the morning in speaking with the new members of the Society. In the afternoon I saw the sick; but not one in fear, neither repining against God.

Thur. 21. In the evening I published the great decree of God, eternal, unchangeable, (so miserably misunderstood and misrepresented by vain men that would be wise,) "He that believeth shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned."

Sat. 23. At a Meeting of the Stewards of the Society, (who receive and expend what is contributed weekly,) it was found needful to retrench the expenses, the contributions not answering thereto. And it was accordingly agreed, to discharge two of the School-masters at Bristol; the present fund being barely sufficient to keep two Masters and a Mistress here, and one Master and Mistress at Kingswood.

Mon. 25. Having settled all the business on which I came, I set out early, and on Tuesday called at Windsor. I found here also a few, who have peace with God, and are full of love, both to Him and to one another. In the evening I preached at the Foundery, on, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."

Fri. 29. I spent an hour with poor Mr. M———c. His usual frown was vanished away. His look was clear, open, and composed. He listened to the word of reconciliation with all possible marks of deep attention, though he was too weak to speak. Before I went, we commended him to the grace of God, in confidence that our prayer was heard; to whom at two in the morning he resigned his spirit, without any sigh or groan.

Tues. June 2. I spoke plainly to Mr. Piers, who told me he had been much shaken by the still brethren. But the snare is broken: I left him rejoicing in hope, and praising God for the consolation.

Thur. 4. I exhorted a crowded congregation, "Not to receive the grace of God in vain." The same exhortation I enforced on the Society, (about nine hundred persons,) and by their fruits it doth appear that they begin to love one another, "not in word" only, "but in deed and in truth."

Fri. 5. Hearing that a deaf and dumb man near Marien-

born had procured a remarkable letter to be wrote into England, I asked James Hutton, if he knew of that letter, and what the purport of it was? He answered, "Yes: he had read the letter; but had quite forgotten what it was about." I then asked Mr. V——, who replied, "The letter was short; but he did not remember the purport of it."

Sun. 7. I preached in Charles' Square, on "The hour is come, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live." A violent storm began about the middle of the sermon; but these things move not those who seek the Lord. So much the more was his power present to heal; insomuch that many of our hearts danced for joy, praising, "The glorious God that maketh the thunder."

Mon. 8. I set out from Enfield-Chace for Leicestershire. In the evening we came to Northampton; and the next afternoon to Mr. Ellis's, at Markfield, five or six miles beyond Leicester.

For these two days I had made an experiment, which I had been so often and earnestly pressed to do: "Speaking to none concerning the things of God, unless my heart was free to it." And what was the event? Why, 1. That I spoke to none at all for fourscore miles together; no, not even to him that travelled with me in the chaise, unless a few words at first setting out. 2. That I had no cross either to bear or to take up, and commonly in an hour or two fell fast asleep. 3. That I had much respect shown me, wherever I came, every one behaving to me, as to a civil, good-natured gentleman. O how pleasing is all this to flesh and blood! Need ye compass sea and land, to make proselytes to this?

Wed. 10. I preached in the morning, on, the inward kingdom of God: And many, I trust, found, they were heathens in heart, and Christians in name only.

In the afternoon we came to J—— C——n's, about ten miles beyond Markfield, a plain, open-hearted man, desirous to know and do the will of God. I was a little surprised at what he said: "A few months since there was a great awakening all round us: But since Mr. S—— came, three parts in four are fallen as fast asleep as ever." I spoke to him of drawing people from the Church, and advising them to leave off prayer. He said, "There was no Church of England left; and that there was no Scrip-

ture for family prayer, nor for praying in private at any other particular times; which a believer need not do." I asked, "What our Saviour then meant by saying, 'Enter into thy closet and pray?'" He said, "O! that means, enter into the closet of your heart."

Between five and six we came to Ogbrook, where Mr. S——n then was. I asked Mr. Greaves, what doctrine he taught here? He said, "The sum of all is this: 'If you will believe, be still. Do not pretend to do good; (which you cannot do till you believe;) and leave off what you call the means of grace, such as prayer and running to Church and Sacrament.'"

About eight, Mr. Greaves offering me the use of his church, I explained the true Gospel-stillness; and, in the morning, Thursday, 11, to a large congregation, "By grace ye are saved, through faith."

In the afternoon we went on to Nottingham, where Mr. Howe received us gladly. At eight the Society met as usual. I could not but observe, 1. That the room was not half-full, which used till very lately to be crowded within and without. 2. That not one person who came in used any prayer at all; but every one immediately sat down, and began either talking to his neighbour, or looking about to see who was there. 3. That, when I began to pray, there appeared a general surprise, none once offering to kneel down, and those who stood choosing the most easy, indolent posture which they conveniently could. I afterwards looked for one of our hymn-books upon the desk; (which I knew Mr. Howe had brought from London;) but both that and the Bible were vanished away: and in the room lay the Moravian hymns, and the Count's sermons.

I expounded, (but with a heavy heart,) "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved;" and the next morning described (if haply some of the secure ones might awake from the sleep of death) the fruits of true faith,—“Righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

In the evening we came to Markfield again, where the church was quite full, while I explained, "All we like sheep have gone astray; and God hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Sat. 13. In the morning I preached on those words: "To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that

justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted to him for righteousness." We then set out for Melbourn, where, finding the house too small to contain those who were come together, I stood under a large tree, and declared Him whom "God hath exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto Israel, and remission of sins."

Thence I went to Hemmington, where also, the house not being large enough to contain the people, they stood about the door and at both the windows, while I showed, "What we must do to be saved."

One of our company seemed a little offended, when I had done, at "a vile fellow, notorious all over the country for cursing, swearing, and drunkenness, though he was now grey-headed, being near four-score years of age." He came to me, and catching me hold by the hands, said, "Whether thou art a good or a bad man, I know not; but I know the words thou speakest are good. I never heard the like in all my life. O that God would set them home upon my poor soul!" He then burst into tears, so that he could speak no more.

Sun. 14. I rode to Nottingham again, and at eight preached at the Market-Place, to an immense multitude of people, on, "The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live." I saw only one or two who behaved lightly, whom I immediately spoke to, and they stood reprov'd. Yet, soon after, a man behind me began aloud to contradict and blaspheme; but, upon my turning to him, he stepped behind a pillar, and in a few minutes disappeared.

In the afternoon we returned to Markfield. The church was so excessive hot, being crowded in every corner, that I could not without difficulty read the evening service. Being afterwards informed that abundance of people were still without, who could not possibly get into the church, I went out to them, and explained that great promise of our Lord, "I will heal their backslidings, I will love them freely." In the evening I expounded in the church, on her who "loved much, because she had much forgiven."

Mon. 15. I set out for London; and read over, in the way, that celebrated book, Martin Luther's Comment on the Epistle to the Galatians. I was utterly ashamed. How have I esteemed this book, only because I heard it so commended by others! Or, at best, because I had

read some excellent sentences occasionally quoted from it ! But what shall I say, now I judge for myself? Now I see with my own eyes? Why, not only that the author makes nothing out, clears up not one considerable difficulty; that he is quite shallow in his remarks on many passages, and muddy and confused almost on all; but that he is deeply tinctured with mysticism throughout, and hence often dangerously wrong. To instance only in one or two points: How does he (almost in the words of Tauler) decry reason, right or wrong, as an irreconcilable enemy to the Gospel of Christ? Whereas, what is reason, (the faculty so called,) but the power of apprehending, judging, and discoursing? Which power is no more to be condemned in the gross, than seeing, hearing, or feeling. Again, how blasphemously does he speak of good works and of the law of God; constantly coupling the law with sin, death, hell, or the Devil! and teaching, that Christ delivers us from them all alike. Whereas, it can no more be proved by Scripture, that "Christ delivers us from the law of God," than that he delivers us "from holiness or from heaven." Here (I apprehend) is the real spring of the grand error of the Moravians. They follow Luther for better for worse. Hence their, "No works; no law; no commandments." But who art thou that "speakest evil of the law, and judgest the law?"

Tues. 16. In the evening I came to London, and preached on those words, (Gal. v. 6,) "In Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love." After reading Luther's miserable comment upon the text, I thought it my bounden duty openly to warn the congregation against that dangerous treatise, and to retract whatever recommendation I might ignorantly have given of it.

Wed. 17. I set out, and rode slowly toward Oxford; but before I came to Wycombe my horse tired. There I hired another, which tired also before I came to Tetsworth. I hired a third here, and reached Oxford in the evening.

Thur. 18. I inquired concerning the exercises previous to the degree of Bachelor in Divinity, and advised with Mr. Gambold concerning the subject of my sermon before the University; but he seemed to think it of no moment: "For, (said he,) all here are so prejudiced, that they will mind nothing you say." I know not that. However, I

am to deliver my own soul, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.

I found a great change among the poor people here. Out of twenty-five or thirty weekly communicants, only two were left. Not one continued to attend the daily prayers of the Church; and those few that were once united together were now torn asunder and scattered abroad.

Mon. 22. The words on which my book opened at the Society, in the evening, were these: "Ye have forsaken my ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lords of hosts.—Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. But ye say, wherein have we spoken against thee? Ye have said, it is vain that we worship God? And what profit is it that we keep his ordinances?" (Mal. iii.).

Wed. 24. I read over, and partly transcribed, Bishop Bull's *Harmonia Apostolica*. The position with which he sets out is this: "That all good works, and not faith alone, are the necessarily previous condition of justification," or the forgiveness of our sins. But in the middle of the treatise, he asserts, "That faith alone is the condition of justification;" "for faith, (says he,) referred to justification, means all inward and outward good works." In the latter end he affirms, "That there are two justifications; and that only inward good works necessarily precede the former, but both inward and outward the latter."

Sat. 27. I rode to London, and enforced, in the evening, that solemn declaration of the great Apostle: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid. Yea, we establish the law."

Sun. 28. I showed, in the morning, at large, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty;" liberty from sin; liberty to be, to do, and to suffer, according to the written word. At five I preached at Charles' Square, to the largest congregation that, I believe, was ever seen there, on, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." As soon as I had done, I quite lost my voice; but it was immediately restored when I came to our little flock with the blessing of the Gospel of peace; and I spent an hour and a half in exhortation and prayer, without any hoarseness, faintness or weariness.

Mon. 29. I preached in the morning on, "Ye are saved

318. Rev. John Wesley's Journal

through faith." In the afternoon I expounded, at Windsor, the story of the Pharisee and Publican. I spent the evening at Wycombe; and the next morning, Tuesday, 30, returned to Oxford.

Thur. July 2. I met Mr. Gambold again, who honestly told me "He was ashamed of my company, and therefore must be excused from going to the Society with me." This is plain dealing at least!

Sat. 4. I had much talk with Mr. V——, who allowed, 1. That there are many (not one only) commands of God, both to believers and unbelievers; and, 2. That the Lord's Supper, the Scripture, and both public and private prayer, are God's ordinary means of conveying grace to man. But what will this private confession avail, so long as the quite contrary is still declared in those Sixteen Discourses, published to all the world, and never yet either corrected or retracted?

Mon. 6. Looking for a book in our College Library, I took down, by mistake, the works of Episcopius, which opening on an account of the Synod of Dort, I believed it might be useful to read it through. But what a scene is here disclosed? What a pity it is that the holy Synod of Trent and that of Dort did not sit at the same time, nearly allied as they were, not only as to the purity of doctrine which each of them established, but also as to the spirit wherewith they acted; if the latter did not exceed!

Thur. 9. Being in the Bodleian Library, I light on Mr. Calvin's account of the case of Michael Servetus, several of whose letters he occasionally inserts, wherein Servetus often declares in terms, "I believe the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God." Mr. Calvin, however, paints him such a monster as never was,—an Arian, a blasphemer, and what not! Besides strewing over him his flowers of Dog, Devil, Swine, and so on; which are the usual appellations he gives to his opponents. But still he utterly denies his being the cause of Servetus's death. "No," says he; "I only advised our Magistrates, as having a right to restrain heretics by the sword, to seize upon and try that arch-heretic; but after he was condemned, I said not one word about his execution!"

Fri. 10. I rode to London, and preached at Short's Gardens, on, "The name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth."

Sun. 12. While I was showing, at Charles' Square, what it is "To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk

humbly with our God," a great shout began. Many of the rabble had brought an ox, which they were vehemently labouring to drive in among the people: but their labour was in vain; for, in spite of them all, he ran round and round, one way and the other, and at length broke through the midst of them clear away, leaving us calmly rejoicing and praising God.

Mon. 13. I returned to Oxford, and on Wednesday rode to Bristol. My brother, I found, was already gone to Wales; so that I came just in season; and that, indeed, on another account also; for a spirit of enthusiasm was breaking in upon many, who charged their own imaginations on the will of God, and that not written, but impressed on their hearts. If these impressions be received as the rule of action instead of the written word, I know nothing so wicked or absurd but we may fall into, and that without remedy.

Fri. 17. The School at Kingswood was thoroughly filled between eight and nine in the evening. I showed them, from the example of the Corinthians, what need we have to bear one with another, seeing we are not to expect "many fathers in Christ;" no, nor young men among us, as yet. We then poured out our souls in prayer and praise, and our Lord did not hide his face from us.

Sun. 19. After preaching twice at Bristol, and twice at Kingswood, I earnestly exhorted the Society to continue in the faith, "enduring hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ." On Monday (my brother being now returned from Wales) I rode back to Oxford.

Wed. 22. At the repeated instance of some that were there, I went over to Abingdon. I preached on, "What must I do to be saved?" Both the yard and house were full; but so stupid, senseless a people, both in a spiritual and natural sense, I scarce ever saw before: yet God is able of "these stones to raise up children to Abraham."

Fri. 24. Several of our friends from London, and some from Kingswood and Bristol, came to Oxford. Alas! how long shall they "come from the East and from the West, and sit down in the kingdom of God," while the children of the kingdom will not come in, but remain in outer darkness.

Sat. July 25. It being my turn, (which comes about once in three years,) I preached at St. Mary's, before the University. The harvest truly is plenteous. So numerous

320 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

a congregation (from whatever motives they came) I have seldom seen at Oxford. My text was the confession of poor Agrippa: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." I have "cast my bread upon the waters;" let me "find it again after many days."

In the afternoon I set out, (having no time to spare,) and on Sunday, 26, preached at the Foundery, on, the liberty we have "to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus."

Mon. 27. Finding notice had been given, that I would preach in the evening at Hackney, I went thither, and openly declared those glad tidings: "By grace ye are saved through faith." Many, we heard, had threatened terrible things; but no man opened his mouth. Perceive ye not yet, that "greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world!"

Tues. 28. I visited one that was going heavily, and in fear, through the valley of the shadow of death; but God heard the prayer, and soon lifted up the light of his countenance upon her; so that she immediately broke out into thanksgiving, and the next day quietly fell asleep.

Fri. 31. Hearing that one of our sisters (Jane Muncy) was ill, I went to see her. She was one of the first women-bands at Fetter-Lane; and when the controversy concerning the means of grace began, stood in the gap, and contended earnestly for the ordinances once delivered to the saints. When, soon after, it was ordered, "That the unmarried men and women should have no conversation with each other," she again withstood to the face those who were "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men;" nor could all the sophistry of those who are, without controversy, of all men living, the wisest in their generation, induce her either to deny the faith she had received, or to use less plainness of speech, or to be less zealous in recommending, and careful in practising, good works; insomuch that, many times, when she had been employed in the labour of love till eight or nine in the evening, she then sat down and wrought with her hands till twelve or one in the morning; not that she wanted any thing herself, but that she might have to give to others for necessary uses.

From the time that she was made Leader of one or two Bands, she was more eminently a pattern to the flock; in self-denial of every kind, in openness of behaviour, in

simplicity and godly sincerity, in steadfast faith, in constant attendance on all the public and all the private ordinances of God; and as she had laboured more than they all, so God now called her forth to suffer. She was seized at first with a violent fever, in the beginning of which they removed her to another house: here she had work to do which she knew not of. The master of the house was one who cared for none of these things, but he observed her, and was convinced; so that he then began to understand and lay to heart the things that bring a man peace at the last.

In a few days the fever abated, or settled, as it seemed, into an inward imposthume; so that she could not breathe without violent pain, which increased day and night. When I came in, she stretched out her hand and said, "Art thou come, thou blessed of the Lord? Praised be the name of my Lord for this." I asked, "Do you faint, now you are chastened of him?" She said, "O no, no, no; I faint not; I murmur not; I rejoice evermore." I said, "But can you in every thing give thanks?" She replied, "Yes I do, I do." I said, "God will make all your bed in your sickness." She cried out, "He does, he does. I have nothing to desire. He is ever with me, and I have nothing to do but to praise him."

In the same state of mind, though weaker and weaker in body, she continued till Tuesday following; when several of those who had been in her Band being present, she fixed her eyes upon them, and fell into a kind of agonizing prayer, "That God would keep them from the evil one." But, in the afternoon, when I came, she was quite calm again, and all her words were prayer and praise. The same spirit she breathed when Mr. Maxfield called the next day; and soon after he went she slept in peace.—"A mother in Israel hast thou been, and thy works shall praise thee in the gates!"

Sat. Aug. 1. I had a long conversation with Mr. Ing-ham. We both agreed, 1. That none shall finally be saved who have not, as they had opportunity, done all good works; and 2. That if a justified person does not do good, as he has opportunity, he will lose the grace he has received; and if he repent not and do the former works, will perish eternally. But, with regard to the unjustified, (if I understand him,) we wholly disagreed. He believed, it is not the will of God that they should wait for faith in

doing good. I believe, this is the will of God, and that they will never find Him unless they seek Him in this way.

Sun. 2. I went, after having been long importuned by Dr. Deleznott, to the Chapel, in Great Hermitage-Street, Wapping. Mr. Meriton (a clergyman from the Isle of Man) read prayers. I then preached on these words in the former Lesson: "Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself? Because he hath humbled himself, I will not bring this evil in his days;" and took occasion thence to exhort all believers, to use the grace God had already given them, and in keeping his law, according to the power they now had, to wait for the faith of the Gospel.

Fri. 7. The body of our sister Muncy being brought to Short's Gardens, I preached on those words: "Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." From thence we went with it to the grave, in St. Giles's Church-Yard, where I performed the last office, in the presence of such an innumerable multitude of people as I never saw gathered together before. O what a sight it will be when God saith to the grave, "Give back;" and all the dead, small and great, shall stand before him!

Wed. 12. I visited one whom God is purifying in the fire in answer to the prayers of his wife, whom he was just going to beat, (which he frequently did,) when God smote him in a moment; so that his hand dropped, and he fell down upon the ground, having no more strength than a new-born child. He has been confined to his bed ever since, but rejoices in hope of the glory of God.

Fri. 14. Calling on a person near Grosvenor-Square, I found there was but too much reason here, for crying out of the increase of Popery; many converts to it being continually made, by the gentleman who preaches in Swallow-Street, three days in every week. Now, why do not the champions, who are continually crying out, "Popery, Popery," in Moorfields, come hither, that they may not always be fighting "as one that beateth the air?" Plainly, because they have no mind to fight at all, but to show their valour without an opponent; and they well know, they may defy Popery at the Foundery, without any danger of contradiction.

Wed. 19. The scripture which came in turn to be expounded was, the 9th chapter to the Romans. I was then

constrained to speak an hour longer than usual, and am persuaded most, if not all who were present, saw that this chapter has no more to do with personal, irrespective predestination, than the 9th of Genesis.

Thur. 20. A Clergyman having sent me word, that if I would preach in the evening on the text he named, he would come to hear me, I preached on that text, Matt. vii. 26., and strongly enforced the caution of our Lord, to "beware of false prophets;" i.e. all preachers, who do not speak as the oracles of God.

Tues. 25. I explained, at Chelsea, the nature and necessity of the new birth. One (who, I afterwards heard, was a dissenting Teacher) asked me, when I had done, "*Quid est tibi nomen?*" And on my not answering, turned in triumph to his companions, and said, "Aye, I told you, he did not understand Latin!"

Wed. 26. I was informed of a remarkable conversation, at which one of our sisters was present a day or two before, wherein a gentleman was assuring his friends, "That he himself was in Charles' Square, when a person told Mr. Wesley to his face, that he (Mr. Wesley) had paid twenty pounds already, on being convicted for selling Geneva, and that he now kept two Popish Priests in his house." This gave occasion to another to mention what he had himself heard, at an eminent dissenting Teacher's; viz. "That it was beyond dispute, Mr. Wesley had large remittances from Spain, in order to make a party among the poor; and that as soon as the Spaniards landed, he was to join them with twenty thousand men."

Mon. 31. I began my course of preaching on the Common Prayer. Tuesday, September 1, I read over Mr. Whitefield's account of God's dealings with his soul. Great part of this I know to be true. "O let not mercy and truth forsake thee! Bind them about thy neck! Write them upon the table of thy heart!"

Thur. 3. James Hutton having sent me word, that Count Zinzendorf would meet me at three in the afternoon, I went at that time to Gray's Inn Walks. The most material part of our conversation, (which I dare not conceal,) was as follows. To spare the dead, I do not translate.

Z. Cur Religionem tuam mutasti?

W. Nescio me Religionem meam mutasse. Cur id sentis? Quis hoc tibi retulit?

Z. Plane tu. Id ex epistola tua ad nos video. Ibi, Religione, quam apud nos professus es, relicta, novam profiteris.

W. Qui sic? Non intelligo.

Z. Imo, istic dicis, vere Christianos non esse miseros peccatores. Falsissimum. Optimi hominum ad mortem usque miserabilissimi sunt peccatores. Siqui aliud dicunt, vel penitus impostores sunt, vel Diabolice seducti. Nostros fratres meliora docentes impugnasti. Et pacem volentibus, eam denegasti.

W. Nondum intelligo quid velis.

Z. Ego, cum ex Georgia ad me scripsisti, te dilexi plurimum. Tum corde simplicem te agnovi. Iterum scripsisti. Agnovi corde simplicem, sed turbatis ideis. Ad nos venisti. Ideæ tuæ tum magis turbatæ erant et confusæ. In Angliam rediisti. Aliquandiu post, audiavi fratres nostros tecum pugnare. Spangenbergium misi ad pacem inter vos conciliandam. Scripsit mihi, Fratres tibi injuriam intulisse. Rescripsi, ne pergerent, sed ut veniam a te peterent. Spangenberg scripsit iterum, eos petiisse: sed te, gloriari de iis, pacem nolle. Jam adveniens, idem audio.

W. Res in eo cardine minime vertitur. Fratres tui (verum hoc) me male tractarunt. Postea veniam petierunt. Respondi, id supervacaneum; me nunquam iis succensuisse: sed vereri, 1. Ne falsa docerent, 2. Ne prave viverent.

Ista unica, est, et fuit, inter nos quæstio.

Z. Apertius loquaris.

W. Veritus sum, ne falsa docerent, 1. De fine fidei nostræ (in hac vita) scil. Christiana perfectione, 2. De Mediis gratiæ, sic ab Ecclesia nostra dictis.

Z. Nullam inhærentem Perfectionem in hac vita agnosco. Est hic Error Errorum. Eum per totum orbem igne et gladio persequor, conculco, ad internecionem do. Christus est sola Perfectio nostra. Qui Perfectionem inhærentem sequitur, Christum denegat.

W. Ego vero credo, Spiritum Christi operari Perfectionem in vere Christianis.

Z. Nullimode. Omnis nostra Perfectio est in Christo. Omnis Christiana Perfectio est, Fides in sanguine Christi. Est tota Christiana Perfectio, imputata, non inhærens. Perfecti sumus in Christo, in nobismet nunquam perfecti.

W. Pugnamus, opinor, de verbis. Nonne omnis vere credens Sanctus est?

Z. Maxime. Sed Sanctus in Christo, non in se.

W. Sed, nonne sancte vivit?

Z. Imo, sancte in omnibus vivit.

W. Nonne, et Cor sanctum habe.

Z. Certissime.

W. Nonne, ex consequenti, sanctus est in se?

Z. Non, non. In Christo tantum. Non sanctus in se. Nullam omnino habet Sanctitatem in se.

W. Nonne habet in corde suo amorem Dei et Proximi, quin et totam Imaginem Dei?

Z. Habet. Sed hæc sunt Sanctitas legalis, non Evangelica. Sanctitas Evangelica est Fides.

W. Omnino lis est de verbis. Concedis, credentis Cor totum esse sanctum et vitam totam: Eum amare Deum toto corde, eique servire totis veribus. Nihil ultra peto. Nil aliud volo per Perfectio vel Sanctitas Christiana.

Z. Sed hæc non est Sanctitas ejus. Non magis sanctus est, si magis amat, neque minus sanctus, si minus amat.

W. Quid? Nonne credens, dum crescit in amore, crescit pariter in Sanctitate?

Z. Nequaquam. Eo momento quo justificatur, sanctificatur penitus. Exin, neque magis sanctus est, neque minus sanctus, ad mortem usque.

W. Nonne igitur Pater in Christo sanctior est Infante recens nato!

Z. Non. Sanctificatio totalis ac Justificatio in eodem sunt instanti; et neutra recipit magis aut minus.

W. Nonne vero credens crescit indies amore Dei? Num perfectus est amore simulac justificatur?

Z. Est. Non unquam crescit in amore Dei. Totaliter amat eo momento, sicut totaliter sanctificatur.

W. Quid itaque vult Apostolus Paulus, per Renovamur de die in diem?

Z. Dicam. Plumbum si in aurum mutetur, est aurum primo die et secundo et tertio. Et sic renovatur de die in diem. Sed nunquam est magis aurum, quam primo die.

W. Putavi, Crescendum esse in Gratia!

Z. Certe. Sed non in Sanctitate. Simulac justificatur quis, Pater, Filius et Spiritus Sanctus habitant in ipsius Corde. Et cor ejus eo momento æque purum est ac unquam erit. Infans in Christo tam purus corde est quam Pater in Christo. Nulla est discrepantia.

326 . Rev. John Wesley's Journal

W. Nonne justificati erant Apostoli ante Christi mortem?

Z. Erant.

W. Nonne vero sanctiores erant post diem Pentecostes, quam ante Christi mortem?

Z. Neutiquam.

W. Nonne eo die impleti sunt Spiritu Sancto?

Z. Sunt. Sed istud donum Spiritus, Sanctitatem ipsorum non respexit. Fuit donum Miraculorum tantum.

W. Fortasse te non capio. Nonne nos ipsos abnegantes, magis magisque mundo morimur, ac Deo vivimus?

Z. Abnegationem omnem respuimus, conculcamus. Facimus credentes omne quod volumus et nihil ultra. Mortificationem omnem ridemus. Nulla Purificatio præcedit Perfectum amorem.

W. Quæ dixisti, Deo adjuvante, perpendam.

The LETTER referred to by the Count was written August 8 preceding. It was as follows, excepting two or three paragraphs, which I have omitted as less material.

JOHN WESLEY, A PRESBYTER OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN ENGLAND, TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT HERNHUTH, IN UPPER LUSATIA.

1. It may seem strange, that such an one as I am should take upon me to write to you. You I believe to be "dear children of God, through faith which is in Jesus." Me you believe (as some of you have declared) to be "a child of the Devil, a servant of corruption." Yet whatsoever I am, or whatsoever you are, I beseech you to weigh the following words; if haply God, who "sendeth by whom he will send," may give you light thereby; although "the mist of darkness" (as one of you affirms) should be reserved for me for ever.

2. My design is, freely and plainly to speak whatsoever I have seen or heard among you, in any part of your Church, which seems not agreeable to the Gospel of Christ. And my hope is, that the God whom you serve will give you thoroughly to weigh what is spoken; and if in any thing "ye have been otherwise minded than the truth is, will reveal even this unto you."

3. And first, with regard to Christian salvation, even the present salvation which is through faith, I have heard some of you affirm, 1. That it does not imply the proper

taking away our sins, the cleansing our souls from all sin, but only the tearing the system of sin in pieces. 2. That it does not imply liberty from sinful thoughts.

4. I have heard some of you affirm, on the other hand, 1. That it does imply liberty from the commandments of God, so that one who is saved through faith is not obliged or bound to obey them, does not do any thing as a commandment, or as a duty. To support which they have affirmed, that there is ¹ no command in the New Testament but to believe; that there is no duty required therein but that of believing, and that to a believer there is no commandment at all. 2. That it does imply liberty to conform to the world,² by talking on useless, if not trifling subjects; by joining in worldly diversions in order to do good; by ³ putting on of gold and costly apparel, or by continuing in those professions, the gain of which depends on ministering hereto. 3. That it does imply liberty to avoid persecution, by ⁴ not reproving even those who sin in your sight; by not letting your light shine before those

¹In the answer to this letter, which I received some weeks after, this is explained as follows. "All things which are a commandment to the natural man are a promise to all that have been justified — The thing itself is not lost, but the notion, which people are wont to have of commandments, duties, &c."

I reply, 1. If this be all you mean, why do you not say so explicitly to all men? 2. Whether this be all, let any reasonable man judge, when he has read what is here subjoined.

²The Brethren answer to this, "We believe it much better to discourse out of the newspapers, than to chatter about holy things to no purpose." Perhaps so. But what is this to the point? I believe both the one and the other to be useless, and therefore an abomination to the Lord.

This objection then stands in full force; the fact alleged being rather defended than denied.

The joining in worldly diversions in order to do good, (another charge which cannot be denied,) I think would admit of the same defence; viz. That "there are other things as bad."

³"We wear (say the brethren) neither gold nor silver." You forget; I have seen it with my eyes. "But we judge nobody that does." How! Then you must judge both St. Peter and Paul false witnesses before God. "And because those professions that minister thereto [to sin, to what God has flatly forbidden] relate to trade, and trade is a thing relating to the Magistrate; we therefore let all these things alone, entirely suspending our judgment concerning them."

What miserable work is here! Because trade relates to the Magistrate am I not to consider, whether my trade be innocent or sinful? Then the keeper of a Venetian brothel is clear. The Magistrate shall answer for him to God!

⁴This fact also you grant, and defend thus. "The power of reproving relates either to outward things, or to the heart. Nobody has any right to the former, but the Magistrate." (Alas! alas! what casuistry is this?) "And if one will speak to the heart, he must be first sure that the Saviour has already got hold of it." What then must become of all other men? O how pleasing is all this to flesh and blood!

men who love darkness rather than light; by not using plainness of speech, and a frank, open carriage to all men. Nay, by a close, dark, reserved conversation and behaviour, especially toward strangers. And in many of you I have more than once found (what you called being wise as serpents) much subtlety, much evasion and disguise, much guile and dissimulation. You appeared to be what you were not, or not to be what you were. You so studied "to become all things to all men," as to take the colour and shape of any that were near you. So that your practice was indeed no proof of your judgment, but only an indication of your design, *Nulli lœdere os*; and of your conformity to that (not scriptural) maxim, *Sinere mundum vadere ut vult: nam vult vadere*.

5. Secondly, with regard to that faith through which we are saved, I have heard many of you say, "A man may have justifying faith and not know it." Others of you, who are now in England, (particularly Mr. Molther,) I have heard affirm,¹ that there is no such thing as weak faith; that there are no degrees in faith; that there is no justifying faith, where there is ever any doubt; that there is no justifying faith, without the plerophory of faith, the clear, abiding witness of the Spirit; that there is no justifying faith, where there is not, in the full, proper sense, a new or clean heart; and that those who have not these two gifts are only awakened, not justified.

6. Thirdly, As to the way to faith, here are many among us, whom your brethren have advised (what it is not to be supposed they would as yet speak to me, or in their public preaching)² not to use those ordinances, which our Church terms "means of grace," till they have such a faith as implies a clean heart, and excludes all possibility of doubting. They have advised them, till then, not to search the Scriptures, not to pray, not to communicate; and have often affirmed, that to do these things is seeking salvation by works; and that till these works are laid aside, no man can receive faith; for "No man

¹ In the Preface to the second Journal, the Moravian Church is cleared from this mistake.

² The substance of the answer to this and the following paragraphs is, 1. That none ought to communicate till he has faith; i.e. a sure trust in the mercy of God through Christ. This is granting the charge. 2. That "If the Methodists hold, this sacrament is a means of getting faith, they must act according to their persuasion." We do hold it, and know it to be so, to many of those who are previously convinced of sin.

(say they) can do these things without trusting in them : If he does not trust in them, why does he do them? "

7. To those who answered, "It is our duty to use the ordinances of God," they replied, "There are no ordinances of Christ, the use of which is now bound upon Christians as a duty, or which we are commanded to use. As to those you mention in particular, (*viz.* prayer, communicating, and searching the Scripture,) if a man have faith, he need not; if he have not, he must not use them. A believer may use them, though not as enjoined; but an unbeliever (as before defined) may not."

8. To those who answered, "I hope God will through these means convey his grace to my soul," they replied, "There is no such thing as means of grace; Christ has not obtained any such in his Church. But if there were, they are nothing to you; for you are dead; you have no faith; and you cannot work, while you are dead. Therefore let these things alone till you have faith."

9. And some of our English brethren, who are joined with yours, have said openly, "You will never have faith till you leave running about to church and sacrament and societies." Another of them has said, (in his public expounding,) "As many go to hell by praying as by thieving." Another, "I knew one, who, leaning over the back of a chair, received a great gift. But he must kneel down to give God thanks, so he lost it immediately; and I know not whether he will ever have it again." And yet another, "You have lost your first joy; therefore you pray: that is the Devil. You read the Bible: that is the Devil. You communicate: that is the Devil."

10. Let not any of you, my brethren, say, we are not chargeable with what they speak. Indeed you are; for you can hinder it, if you will. Therefore, if you do not, it must be charged upon you. If you do not use the power which is in your hands, and thereby prevent their speaking thus, you do, in effect, speak thus yourselves. You make their words your own; and are accordingly chargeable with every ill consequence which may flow therefrom.

11. Fourthly, with regard to your Church,¹ you greatly, yea above measure, exalt yourselves and despise others.

¹ "A religion (you say) and a church are not all one. A religion is an assembly wherein the holy Scriptures are taught after a prescribed rule." This is too narrow a definition; for there are many Pagan (as well as Mahometan)

I have scarce heard one Moravian brother in my life own his Church to be wrong in any thing.

I have scarce heard any of you (I think not one in England) own himself to be wrong in any thing.

Many of you I have heard speak of your Church, as if it were infallible; or, so led by the Spirit, that it was not possible for it to err in any thing.

Some of you have set it up (as indeed you ought to do, if it be infallible) as the judge of all the earth, of all persons (as well as doctrines) therein: and you have accordingly passed sentence upon them at once, by their agreement or disagreement with your Church.

Some of you have said, that there is no true Church on earth but yours; yea, that there are no true Christians out of it. And your own members you require to have implicit faith in her decisions, and to pay implicit obedience to her directions.

12. Fifthly, You receive not the ancient, but the modern Mystics, as the best interpreters of Scripture; and in conformity to these, you mix much of man's wisdom with the wisdom of God: you greatly refine the plain religion taught by the letter of Holy Writ, and philosophise on almost every part of it, to accommodate it to the mystic theory. Hence you talk much, in a manner wholly unsupported by Scripture, against mixing nature with grace; against imagination; and concerning the animal spirits mimicking the power of the Holy Ghost. Hence your brethren zealously caution us against animal joy, against natural love of one another, and against selfish love of God; against which (or any of them) there is no one caution in all the Bible: and they have, in truth, greatly lessened, and had well nigh destroyed, brotherly love from among us.

13. In conformity to the Mystics, you likewise greatly check joy in the Holy Ghost, by such cautions against

religions. Rather, a religion is a method of worshipping God, whether in a right or a wrong manner

"The Lord has such a peculiar hand in the several constitutions of religion, that one ought to respect every one of them." I cannot possibly; I cannot respect either the Jewish (as it is now) or the Romish religion. You add,

"A Church (I will not examine whether there are any in this present age, or whether there is no other beside ours) is, a congregation of sinners who have obtained forgiveness of sins. That such a congregation should be in an error, cannot easily happen."

I find no reason, therefore, to retract any thing which is advanced on this or any of the following heads.

sensible comforts, as have no tittle of Scripture to support them. Hence also your brethren here damp the zeal of babes in Christ, talking much of false zeal, forbidding them to declare what God hath done for their souls, even when their hearts burn within them to declare it; and comparing those to uncorked bottles, who simply and artlessly speak of the ability which God giveth

14. Hence, lastly, it is, that you undervalue good works; (especially works of outward mercy;) never publicly insisting on the necessity of them, nor declaring their weight and excellency. Hence, when some of your brethren have spoken of them, they put them on a wrong foot; viz. "If you find yourself moved, if your heart is free to it, then reprove, exhort, relieve." By this means you wholly avoid the taking up your cross, in order to do good; and also substitute an uncertain, precarious inward motion, in the place of the plain written word; nay, one of your members has said of good works in general, (whether works of piety or of charity,) "A believer is no more obliged to do these works of the Law, than a subject of the King of England is obliged to obey the laws of the King of France."

15. My brethren, whether ye will hear, or whether ye will forbear, I have now delivered my own soul; and this I have chosen to do in an artless manner, that if any thing should come home to your hearts, the effect might evidently flow not from the wisdom of man, but from the power of God.

August 8, 1740.

Thus have I declared, and in the plainest manner I can, the real controversy between us and the Moravian brethren; an unpleasing task, which I have delayed, at least, as long as I could with a clear conscience; but I am constrained, at length, nakedly to speak the thing as it is, that I may not hinder the work of God.

I am very sensible of the objection which has so often been made, viz. "You are inconsistent with yourself: you did tenderly love, highly esteem, and zealously recommend, these very men; and now you do not love or esteem them at all: you not only do not recommend them, but are bitter against them; nay, and rail at them, before all the world."

This is partly true, and partly false: that the whole

case may be better understood, it will be needful to give a short account of what has occurred between us from the beginning.

My first acquaintance with the Moravian Brethren began in my voyage to Georgia : being then with many of them in the same ship, I narrowly observed their whole behaviour; and I greatly approved of all I saw; therefore I unbosomed myself to them without reserve.

From February 14, 1735, to December 2, 1737, being with them (except when I went to Frederica or Carolina) twice or thrice every day, I loved and esteemed them more and more; yet a few things I could not approve of : these I mentioned to them from time to time, and then commended the cause to God.

In February following I met with Peter Böhler : my heart clave to him as soon as he spoke; and the more we conversed, so much the more did I esteem both him and all the Moravian Church; so that I had no rest in my spirit till I executed the design, which I had formed long before; till, after a short stay in Holland, I hastened forward, first to Marienborn, and then to Hernhuth.

In September 1738, soon after my return to England, I began the following letter to the Moravian Church; but being fearful of trusting my own judgment, I determined to wait yet a little longer, and so laid it by unfinished.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

I cannot but rejoice in your steadfast faith, in your love to our blessed Redeemer, your deadness to the world; your meekness, temperance, chastity, and love of one another. I greatly approve of your Conferences and Bands; of your method of instructing children; and, in general, of your great care of the souls committed to your charge.

But of some other things I stand in doubt, which I will mention in love and meekness; and I wish that, in order to remove those doubts, you would on each of those heads, first, Plainly answer, whether the fact be as I suppose; and, if so, secondly, Consider whether it be right.

Do you not wholly neglect joint fasting?

Is not the Count all in all? Are not the rest mere shadows; calling him Rabbi; almost implicitly both believing and obeying him?

Is there not something of levity in your behaviour?
Are you, in general, serious enough?

Are you zealous and watchful to redeem time? Do you not sometimes fall into trifling conversation?

Do you not magnify your own Church too much?

Do you believe any who are not of it, to be in Gospel liberty?

Are you not straitened in your love? Do you love your enemies and wicked men as yourselves?

Do you not mix human wisdom with divine? joining worldly prudence to heavenly?

Do you not use cunning, guile, or dissimulation in many cases?

Are you not of a close, dark, reserved temper and behaviour?

Is not the spirit of secrecy the spirit of your community?

Have you that childlike openness, frankness, and plainness of speech, so manifest to all in the Apostles and first Christians?

It may easily be seen, that my objections then were nearly the same as now; yet I cannot say my affection was lessened at all, till after September, 1739, when certain men among us began to trouble their brethren, and subvert their souls: however, I cleared the Moravians still, and laid the whole blame on our English brethren.

But from November the 1st, I could not but see (unwilling as I was to see them) more and more things which I could in no wise reconcile with the Gospel of Christ; and these I have set down with all simplicity, as they occurred in order of time; believing myself indispensably obliged so to do, both in duty to God and man.

Yet do I this because I love them not? God knoweth: yea, and in part I esteem them still; because I verily believe, they have a sincere desire to serve God; because many of them have tasted of his love, and some retain it in simplicity; because they love one another; because they have so much of the truth of the Gospel, and so far abstain from outward sin; and, lastly, because their discipline is, in most respects, so truly excellent.

"But why then are you bitter against them?" I do not know that I am. Let the impartial reader judge. And if any bitter word has escaped my notice, I here utterly retract it. "But do not you rail at them?" I

334. Rev. John Wesley's Journal

hope not. God forbid that I should rail at a Turk, Infidel, or Heretic. To one who advanced the most dangerous errors, I durst say no more than, "The Lord rebuke thee!" But I would point out what those errors were; and, I trust, in the spirit of meekness.

In this spirit, my brethren, I have read, and endeavoured to consider, all the books you have published in England, that I might inform myself whether, on farther consideration, you had retracted the errors which were advanced before. But it does by no means appear that you have retracted any of them; for, waiving the odd and affected phrases therein, the weak, mean, silly, childish expressions; the crude, confused and indigested notions; the whims, unsupported either by Scripture or sound reason; yea, waiving those assertions, which, though contrary to Scripture and matter of fact, are however of no importance; those three grand errors run through almost all those books, viz. Universal Salvation, Antinomianism, and a kind of new-reformed Quietism.

1. Can universal salvation be more explicitly asserted, than it is in these words:

"By this his name, all can and shall obtain life and salvation." Sixteen Discourses, p. 30. This must include all men, at least; and may include all devils too.

Again, "The name of the wicked will not be so much as mentioned on the great day." Seven Discourses, p. 22. And if they are not so much as mentioned, they cannot be condemned.

2. How can Antinomianism,¹ i.e. making void the law through faith, be more expressly taught than it is in these words:—

"To believe certainly, that Christ suffered death for us,—This is the true means to be saved at once."

"We want no more. For the history of Jesus, coming into the world, is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; the bare historical knowledge of this."

Sixteen Discourses, p. 57.

"There is but one duty, which is that of believing."

Ibid. p. 193.

"From any demand of the law, no man is obliged now to go one step, to give away one farthing, to eat or omit one morsel."

Seven Discourses, p. 11.

¹N.B. I speak of Antinomian doctrine, abstracted from practice, good or bad.

"What did our Lord do with the law? He abolished it." Ibid. p. 33.

"Here one may think, this is a fine sort of Christianity, where nothing good is commanded, and nothing bad is forbid. But thus it is." Ibid. p. 34.

"So one ought to speak now. All commands and prohibitions are unfit for our times." Ibid.

3. Is not the very essence of Quietism (though in a new shape) contained in these words:—

"The whole matter lies in this, that we should suffer ourselves to be relieved." Sixteen Discourses, p. 17.

"One must do nothing, but quietly attend the voice of the Lord." Ibid. p. 29.

"To tell men who have not experienced the power of grace, what they should do, and how they ought to behave, is as if you should send a lame man upon an errand." Ibid. p. 70.

"The beginning is not to be made with doing what our Saviour has commanded. For whosoever will begin with doing, when he is dead, he can do nothing at all; but whatever he doeth in his own activity, is but a cobweb, i.e. good for nothing." Ibid. p. 72, 81.

"As soon as we remain passive before him as the wood which a table is to be made from, then something comes of us." Seven Discourses, p. 22.

O my brethren, let me conjure you yet again, in the name of our common Lord, "if there be any consolation of love, if any bowels and mercies, remove the fly out of the pot of ointment, separate the precious from the vile!" Review, I beseech you, your whole work, and see if Satan hath gained no advantage over you. "Very excellent things have been spoken of thee, O thou city of God." But may not "He which hath the sharp sword with two edges," say, "yet I have a few things against thee"? O that ye would repent of these, that ye might be "a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing!"

Three things, above all, permit me, even me, to press upon you, with all the earnestness of love. First, with regard to your doctrine, that ye purge out from among you the leaven of Antinomianism, wherewith you are so deeply infected, and no longer "make void the law through faith." Secondly, with regard to your discipline, that ye call no man Rabbi, Master, Lord of your faith, upon

336. Rev. John Wesley's Journal

earth. Subordination, I know, is needful; and I can show you such a subordination, as in fact answers all Christian purposes; and is yet as widely distant from that among you, as the heavens are from the earth. Thirdly, with regard to your practice, that ye renounce all craft, cunning, subtlety, dissimulation; wisdom, falsely so called; that ye put away all disguise, all guile out of your mouth; that in all "simplicity and godly sincerity, ye have your conversation in this world;" that ye use great plainness of speech to all, whatever ye suffer thereby; seeking only, "by manifestation of the truth, to commend yourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

AN EXTRACT
OF THE
REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY'S JOURNAL,
FROM SEPTEMBER 3, 1741, TO OCTOBER 27, 1743.

V.

SUNDAY, September 6. Observing some, who were beginning to use their liberty as a cloak for licentiousness, I enforced, in the morning, those words of St. Paul: (worthy to be written in the heart of every believer :) "All things are lawful for me; but all things are not expedient;" and, in the evening, that necessary advice of our Lord: "That men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Mon. 7. I visited a young man in St. Thomas's Hospital, who, in strong pain, was praising God continually. At the desire of many of the patients, I spent a short time with them, in exhortation and prayer. O what a harvest might there be, if any lover of souls, who has time upon his hands, would constantly attend these places of distress, and with tenderness and meekness of wisdom instruct and exhort those, on whom God has laid his hands, to know and improve the day of their visitation!

Wed. 9. I expounded in Greyhound-Lane, Whitechapel, part of the 107th Psalm. And they did "rejoice whom the Lord had redeemed and delivered from the hand of the enemy."

Sat. 12. I was greatly comforted by one, whom God had lifted up from the gates of death, and who was continually telling, with tears of joy, what God had done for his soul.

Sun. 13. I met about two hundred persons, with whom

338 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

severally I had talked the week before, at the French Chapel, in Hermitage-Street, Wapping; where they gladly joined in the service of the Church, and particularly, the Lord's Supper.

Fri. 18. I buried the only child of a tender parent, who, having soon finished her course, after a short sickness went to Him her soul loved, in the fifteenth year of her age.

Sun. 20. I preached in Charles' Square, Hoxton, on these solemn words: "This is life eternal, to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." I trust, God blessed his word. The scoffers stood abashed, and opened not their mouth.

Mon. 21. I set out, and the next evening met my brother at Bristol, with Mr. Jones, of Fonmon-Castle, in Wales; now convinced of the truth as it is in Jesus, and labouring with his might to "redeem the time" he had lost, to "make his calling sure, and to lay hold on eternal life."

Thur. 24. In the evening we went to Kingswood. The house was filled from end to end; and we continued in ministering the word of God, and in prayer and praise, till the morning.

Sun. 27. I expounded at Kingswood, (morning and afternoon,) at Bristol, and at Baptist-Mills, the message of God to the Church of Ephesus; particularly, that way of recovering our first love, which God hath prescribed and not man: "Remember from whence thou art fallen; and repent, and do the first works."

Tues. 29. I was pressed to visit Nicholas Palmer, one who had separated from us, and behaved with great bitterness, till God laid his hand upon him. He had sent for me several times, saying, "He could not die in peace till he had seen me." I found him in great weakness of body, and heaviness of spirit. We wrestled with God on his behalf; and our labour was not in vain: his soul was comforted; and a few hours after, he quietly fell asleep.

Thur. Oct. 1. We set out for Wales; but missing our passage over the Severn in the morning, it was sun-set before we could get to Newport. We inquired there if we could hire a guide to Cardiff; but there was none to be had. A lad coming in quickly after, who was going (he said) to Lanissan, a little village two miles to the right of Cardiff, we resolved to go thither. At seven we set out; it rained pretty fast, and there being neither

moon nor stars, we could neither see any road, nor one another, nor our own horses' heads. But the promise of God did not fail; he gave his angels charge over us; and, soon after ten, we came safe to Mr. Williams's house, at Lanissan.

Fri. 2. We rode to Fonmon-Castle. We found Mr. Jones's daughter ill of the small-pox. But he could cheerfully leave her and all the rest, in the hands of Him in whom he now believed. In the evening I preached at Cardiff, in the Shire-Hall, a large and convenient place, on, "God hath given unto us eternal life; and this life is in his Son." There having been a feast in the town that day, I believed it needful to add a few words upon intemperance; and while I was saying, "As for you, drunkards, you have no part in this life, you abide in death; you choose death and hell;" a man cried out vehemently, "I am one, and thither I am going." But I trust God at that hour began to show him and others a more excellent way.

Sat. 3. About noon we came to Pontypool. A Clergyman stopped me in the first street; a few more found me out soon after, whose love I did not find to be cooled at all, by the bitter adversaries who had been among them. True pains had been taken to set them against my brother and me, by men who "know not what manner of spirit they are of;" but, instead of disputing, we betook ourselves to prayer; and all our hearts were knit together as at the first.

In the afternoon we came to Abergavenny. Those who are bitter of spirit have been here also; yet Mrs. James (now Mrs. Whitefield) received us gladly, as she had done aforetime. But we could not procure even two or three to join with us in the evening, beside those of her own household.

Sun. 4. I had an unexpected opportunity of receiving the Holy Communion. In the afternoon we had a plain, useful sermon, on the Pharisee and the Publican praying in the temple; which I explained at large in the evening, to the best dressed congregation I have ever yet seen in Wales. Two persons came to me afterwards, who were, it seemed, convinced of sin, and groaning for deliverance.

Mon. 5. I preached in the morning at Pontypool, to a small but deeply attentive congregation. Mr. Price conducted us from thence to his house at Watford. After

340 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

resting here an hour, we hastened on and came to Fonmon, where I explained and enforced those words: "What must I do to be saved?" Many seemed quite amazed, while I showed them the nature of salvation, and the gospel-way of attaining it.

Tues. 6. I read prayers and preached in Porth-Kerry church. My text was, "By grace ye are saved, through faith." In the evening, at Cardiff, I expounded Zechariah iv. 7: "Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubabel thou shalt become a plain." The next morning we set out, and in the evening praised God with our brethren in Bristol.

Thur. 8. I dined with C—— T——, greatly praising God for having done his own wise and holy will, in taking away the desire of his eyes. In the evening I preaching on, "Looked unto Jesus;" and many were filled with consolation.

Fri. 9. The same spirit helped our infirmities at the hour of intercession; and again, at Kingswood, in the evening. I was just laid down, when one came and told me, Howel Harris desired to speak with me at Bristol, being just come from London, and having appointed to set out for Wales at three in the morning. I went, and found him with Mr. Humphreys and Mr. S——. They immediately fell upon their favourite subject; on which, when we had disputed two hours, and were just where we were at first, I begged we might exchange controversy for prayer; we did so, and then parted in much love, about two in the morning.

Sat. 10. His journey being deferred till Monday, H. Harris came to me at the New-Room. He said, "As to the decree of reprobation, he renounced and utterly abhorred it; and as to the 'not falling from grace,' 1. He believed, that it ought not to be mentioned to the unjustified, or to any that were slack, and careless, much less that lived in sin; but only to the earnest and disconsolate mourners. 2. He did himself believe, it was possible for one to fall away, who had been enlightened with some knowledge of God, who had 'tasted of the heavenly gift, and been made partaker of the Holy Ghost;' and wished we could all agree, to keep close, in the controverted points, to the very words of Holy Writ. 3. That he accounted no man so justified as not to fall, till he had a thorough, abiding hatred to all sin, and a continual

hunger and thirst after all righteousness." Blessed be thou of the Lord, thou man of peace! Still follow after peace and holiness.

Thur. 15. I was preparing for another journey to Wales, which I had designed to begin on Friday, when I received a message from H. Harris, desiring me to set out immediately, and meet him near the New-Passage. I accordingly set out at noon; but being obliged to wait at the water-side, did not reach Will-Creek (the place he had appointed for our meeting) till an hour or two after night. But this was soon enough; for he had not been there; nor could we hear any thing of him. So we went back to Mather, and thence in the morning to Lanmarton, a village two miles off, where we heard Mr. Daniel Rowlands was to be, and whom accordingly we found there. Evil surmisings presently vanished away, and our hearts were knit together in love. We rode together to Machan, (five miles beyond Newport,) which we reached about twelve o'clock. In an hour after, H. Harris came, and many of his friends from distant parts. We had no dispute of any kind, but the spirit of peace and love was in the midst of us. At three we went to church. There was a vast congregation, though at only a few hours' warning. After prayers, I preached on those words in the Second Lesson: "The life which I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Mr. Rowlands then preached in Welch, on Matthew xxviii. 8.: "Fear ye not; for ye seek him that was crucified."

We rode afterwards to St. Bride's, in the Moors; where Mr. Rowlands preached again. Here we were met by Mr. Humphreys and Thomas Bissicks of Kingswood. About eleven a few of us retired, in order to provoke one another to love and to good works. But T. Bissicks immediately introduced the dispute, and others seconded him. This H. Harris and Mr. Rowlands strongly withstood; but finding it profited nothing, Mr. Rowlands soon withdrew. H. Harris kept them at a bay till about one o'clock in the morning, I then left them and Captain T. together: about three they left off just where they began.

Sat. 17. Going to a neighbouring house, I found Mr. H. and T. Bissicks tearing open the sore with all their might. On my coming in, all was hushed; but Mrs. James, of Abergavenny, (a woman of candour and

humanity,) insisted, that "Those things should be said to my face." There followed a lame piece of work; but although the accusations brought were easily answered, yet I found they left a soreness on many spirits. When H. Harris heard of what had passed, he hastened to stand in the gap once more, and with tears besought them all, "To follow after the things that make for peace:" and God blessed the healing words which he spoke; so that we parted in much love; being all determined to let controversy alone, and to preach Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

I preached at Cardiff, at three, and about five set out thence for Fonmon-Castle: notwithstanding the great darkness of the night, and our being unacquainted with the road, before eight we came safe to the congregation, which had been some time waiting for us.

Sun. 18. I rode to Wenvo: the church was thoroughly filled with attentive hearers, while I preached on those words: "Whom ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." In the afternoon I read prayers and preached at Porth-Kerry: in the evening there was a great course of people at the Castle, to whom I strongly declared "the hope of righteousness, which is through faith."

Mon. 19. I preached once more at Porth-Kerry, and in the afternoon returned to Cardiff, and explained to a large congregation, "When they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both."

Tues. 20. At eleven I preached at the prison, on, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." In the afternoon, I was desired to meet one of the honourable women, whom I found a mere sinner, groaning under the mighty hand of God. About six, at Mr. W.'s desire, I preached once more on those words, "Whom ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."

Wed. 21. I set out soon after preaching, and about nine came to Newport. A clergyman, soon after I was set down, came into the next room, and asked aloud, with a tone unusually sharp, "Where those vagabond fellows were?" Captain T., without any ceremony, took him in hand; but he soon quitted the field, and walked out of the house. Just as I was taking horse, he returned and said, "Sir, I am afraid you are in a wrong way: but if you are right, I pray God to be with you, and prosper your undertakings."

About one I came to Callicut, and preached to a small attentive company of people, on, "Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." Between seven and eight we reached Bristol.

Thur. 22. I called upon Edward W——, who had been ill for several days. I found him in deep despair: since he had left off prayer, "all the waves and storms were gone over him." We cried unto God, and his soul revived: a little light shone upon him, and just as we sung,

"Be Thou his strength and righteousness,
His Jesus and his all,—"

his spirit returned to God.

Fri. 23. I saw several others who were ill of the same distemper. Surely our Lord will do much work by this sickness. I do not find that it comes to any house without leaving a blessing behind it. In the evening I went to Kingswood, and found Ann Steed also praising God in the fires, and testifying, that all her weakness and pain wrought together for good.

Sat. 24. I visited more of the sick, both in Kingswood and Bristol; and it was pleasant work; for I found none of them "sorrowing as men without hope." At six I expounded, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all:" and his light broke in upon us in such a manner, that we were even lost in praise and thanksgiving.

Sun. 25. After the Sacrament at All-Saints, I took horse for Kingswood; but before I came to Lawrence-Hill, my horse fell, and attempting to rise again, fell down upon me. One or two women ran out of a neighbouring house, and when I rose helped me in. I adore the wisdom of God. In this house were three persons, who began to run well; but Satan had hindered them: but they resolved to set out again; and not one of them has looked back since.

Notwithstanding this delay, I got to Kingswood by two. The words God enabled me to speak there, and afterwards at Bristol, (so I must express myself still, for I dare not ascribe them to my own wisdom,) were as a hammer and a flame: and the same blessing we found at the meeting of the Society; but more abundantly at the Love-feast which followed. I remember nothing like it for many months: a cry was heard from one end of the congregation to the other; not of grief, but of overflowing joy

344 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

and love. "O continue forth thy loving kindness unto them that know thee; and thy mercy to them that are true of heart!"

The great comfort I found, both in public and private, almost every day of the ensuing week, I apprehend was to prepare me for what followed; a short account of which I sent to London soon after, in a letter, the copy of which I have subjoined; although I am sensible there are several circumstances therein which some may set down for mere enthusiasm and extravagance.

"DEAR BROTHER,

"All last week I found hanging upon me the effects of a violent cold I had contracted in Wales; not, I think, (as Mr. Turner and Walcam supposed,) by lying in a damp bed at St. Bride's; but rather by riding continually in the cold and wet nights, and preaching immediately after. But I believed it would pass off, and so took little notice of it until Friday morning: I then found myself exceeding sick; and as I walked to Baptist-Mills, (to pray with Susanna Basil, who was ill of a fever,) felt the wind pierce me, as it were, through. At my return, I found myself something better; only I could not eat any thing at all: yet I felt no want of strength at the hour of intercession, nor at six in the evening, while I was opening and applying those words: 'Sun, stand thou still in Gibeon; and thou Moon in the valley of Ajalon.' I was afterwards refreshed, and slept well; so that I apprehended no farther disorder, but rose in the morning as usual, and declared, with a strong voice and enlarged heart, 'Neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith that worketh by love.' About two in the afternoon, just as I was set down to dinner, a shivering came upon me, and a little pain in my back, but no sickness at all, so that I eat a little; and then growing warm, went to see some that were sick. Finding myself worse, about four, I would willingly have laid down; but having promised to see Mrs. G——, who had been out of order for some days, I went thither first, and thence to Weaver's Hall. A man gave me a token for good as I went along: 'Aye,' said he, 'he will be a martyr too by and by.' The Scripture I enforced was, 'My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. But if any man sin, we have an advocate

with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.' I found no want, either of inward or outward strength; but afterwards, finding my fever increased, I called on Dr. Middleton. By his advice, I went home and took my bed; a strange thing to me who had not kept my bed a day (for five and thirty years) ever since I had the small-pox. I immediately fell into a profuse sweat, which continued until one or two in the morning. God then gave me refreshing sleep, and afterwards such tranquillity of mind, that this day, Sunday, November 1, seemed the shortest day to me I had ever known in my life."

I think a little circumstance ought not to be omitted, although I know there may be an ill construction put upon it. Those words were now so strongly impressed upon my mind, that for a considerable time I could not put them out of my thoughts: "Blessed is the man that provideth for the poor and needy; the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble. The Lord shall strengthen him when he lieth sick upon his bed: make thou all his bed in his sickness."

On Sunday night likewise I slept well, and was easy all Monday morning. But about three in the afternoon the shivering returned much more violent than before. It continued until I was put to bed; I was then immediately as in a fiery furnace: in a little space I began sweating; but the sweating seemed to increase rather than allay the burning heat. Thus I remained till about eight o'clock; when I suddenly awaked out of a kind of doze, in such a sort of disorder (whether of body or mind or both) as I know not how to describe. My heart and lungs and all that was within me, and my soul too, seemed to be in perfect uproar; but I cried unto the Lord in my trouble, and He delivered me out of my distress.

I continued in a moderate sweat till near midnight, and then slept pretty well till morning. On Tuesday, November 3, about noon, I was removed to Mr. Hooper's: here I enjoyed a blessed calm for several hours, the fit not returning till six in the evening, and then in such a manner as I never heard or read of. I had a quick pulse, attended with violent heat; but no pain, either in my head, or back, or limbs; no sickness, no stitch, no thirst. Surely God is a present help in time of trouble! and he does "make all my bed in my sickness."

346 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Wed. 4. Many of our brethren agreed to seek God to-day by fasting and prayer. About twelve my fever began to rage; at two I dozed a little, and suddenly awaked in such a disorder (only more violent) as that on Monday. The silver cord appeared to be just then loosing, and the wheel breaking at the cistern; the blood whirled to and fro, as if it would immediately force its way through all its vessels, especially in the breast; and excessive burning heat parched up my whole body, both within and without. About three, in a moment, the commotion ceased, the heat was over, and the pain gone; soon after it made another attack, but not near so violent as the former: this lasted till half-past four, and then vanished at once: I grew better and better till nine; then I fell asleep, and scarce awaked at all till morning.

Thur. 5. The noisy joy of the people in the streets did not agree with me very well; though I am afraid it disordered their poor souls, much more than it did my body. About five in the evening my cough returned, and soon after the heat and other symptoms, but with this remarkable circumstance, that for fourteen or fifteen hours following, I had more or less sleep in every hour: this was one cause why I was never light-headed at all, but had the use of my understanding, from the first hour of my illness to the last, as fully as when in perfect health.

Fri. 6. Between ten and twelve the main shock began. I can give but a faint account of this, not for want of memory, but of words. I felt in my body nothing but storm and tempest, hail-stones and coals of fire; but I do not remember that I felt any fear, (such was the mercy of God!) nor any murmuring: and yet I found but a dull, heavy kind of patience, which I knew was not what it ought to be. The fever came rushing upon me as a lion, ready to break all my bones in pieces; my body grew weaker every moment, but I did not feel my soul put on strength. Then it came into my mind, "Be still, and see the salvation of the Lord; I will not stir hand or foot; but let Him do with me what is good in his own eyes." At once my heart was at ease; my mouth was filled with laughter, and my tongue with joy: my eyes overflowed with tears, and I began to sing aloud. One who stood by said, "Now he is light headed." I told her, "O no; I am not light headed, but I am praising God; God is

come to my help, and pain is nothing; glory be to God on high." I now found why it was not expedient for me to recover my health sooner; because then I should have lost this experimental proof, how little every thing is, which can befall the body, so long as God carries the soul aloft, as it were on the wings of an eagle.

An hour after I had one more grapple with the enemy, who then seemed to collect all his strength. I essayed to shake myself, and praise God as before, but I was not able; the power was departed from me: I was shorn of my strength, and became weak and like another man: Then I said, "Yet here I hold; lo I come to bear thy will, O God." Immediately He returned to my soul, and lifted up the light of his countenance. And I felt, "He rideth easily enough, whom the grace of God carrieth."

I supposed the fit was now over, it being about five in the afternoon, and began to compose myself for sleep, when I felt first a chill, and then a burning all over, attended with such an universal faintness, and weariness, and utter loss of strength, as if the whole frame of nature had been dissolved. Just then my nurse, I know not why, took me out of bed, and placed me in a chair. Presently a purging began, which I believe saved my life. I grew easier from that hour, and had such a night's rest as I have not had before, since it pleased God to lay his hand upon me.

From Saturday, November 7th, to Sunday, 15, I found my strength gradually increasing, and was able to read Turretine's History of the Church, (a dry, heavy, barren treatise,) and the Life of that truly good and great man, Mr. Philip Henry. On Monday and Tuesday, I read over the Life of Mr. Matthew Henry, a man not to be despised either as a scholar or a Christian, though (I think) not equal to his father. On Wednesday I read over once again, *Theologia Germanica*. O how was it that I could ever so admire the affected obscurity of this unscriptural writer! Glory be to God, that I now prefer the plain Apostles and Prophets, before him and all his mystic followers!

Thur. 19. I read again, with great surprise. part of the Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius; but so weak, credulous, thoroughly injudicious a writer, have I seldom found,

Fri. 20. I began Mr. Laval's History of the Reformed

Churches in France, full of the most amazing instances of the wickedness of men, and of the goodness and power of God. About noon the next day, I went out in a coach as far as the School in Kingswood; where one of the mistresses lay (as we believed) near death, having found no help from all the medicines she had taken. We determined to try one remedy more; so we poured out our souls in prayer to God. From that hour she began to recover strength, and in a few days was out of danger.

Sun. 22. Being not suffered to go to church as yet, I communicated at home. I was advised to stay at home some time longer, but I could not apprehend it necessary; and therefore, on Monday, the 23d, went to the New-Room, where we praised God for all his mercies; and I expounded for about an hour, (without any faintness or weariness,) on, "What reward shall I give unto the Lord for all the benefits that he hath done unto me? I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord."

I preached once every day this week, and found no inconvenience by it.

Sun. 29. I thought I might go a little farther; so I preached both at Kingswood and at Bristol; and afterwards spent nearly an hour with the Society, and about two hours at the Love-feast; but my body could not yet keep pace with my mind. I had another fit of my fever the next day, but it lasted not long, and I continued slowly to regain my strength.

On Thursday, December 3, I was able to preach again, on, "By their fruits ye shall know them;" and Friday evening on, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and after many days thou shalt find it again."

Mon. 7. I preached on, "Trust ye in the Lord Jehovah; for in the Lord is everlasting strength." I was showing, what cause we had to trust in the Captain of our salvation, when one in the midst of the room cried out, "Who was your captain the other day, when you hanged yourself? I know the man who saw you when you was cut down." This wise story, it seems, had been diligently spread abroad, and cordially believed by many in Bristol. I desired they would make room for the man to come nearer; but the moment he saw the way open, he ran away with all possible speed, not so much as once looking behind him.

Wed. 9. God humbled us in the evening by the loss of more than thirty of our little company, who I was obliged to exclude, as no longer adorning the Gospel of Christ. I believed it best, openly to declare both their names, and the reasons why they were excluded; we then all cried unto God, that this might be for their edification, and not destruction.

Fri. 11. I went to Bath. I had often reasoned with myself concerning this place, "Hath God left himself without witness?" Did he never raise up such as might be shining lights, even in the midst of this sinful generation? Doubtless he has, but they are either gone "to the desert," or hid under the bushel of prudence. Some of the most serious persons I have known at Bath, are either solitary Christians, scarcely known to each other, unless by name; or prudent Christians, as careful not to give offence, as if that were the unpardonable sin; and, as zealous to "keep their religion to themselves," as they should be to "let it shine before men."

I returned to Bristol the next day: in the evening one desired to speak with me. I perceived him to be in the utmost confusion, so that for awhile he could not speak. At length, he said, "I am he that interrupted you at the New-Room, on Monday; I have had no rest since, day or night, nor could have till I had spoken to you. I hope you will forgive me, and that it will be a warning to me all the days of my life."

Tues. 15. It being a hard frost, I walked over to Bath; and had a conversation of several hours with one who had lived above seventy, and studied divinity above thirty years; yet remission of sins was quite a new doctrine to him: but I trust God will write it on his heart. I returned to Bristol the next day.

Thur. 17. We had a night of solemn joy, occasioned by the funeral of one of our brethren, who died with a hope full of immortality.

Fri. 18. Being disappointed of my horse, I set out on foot in the evening for Kingswood: I caught no cold, nor received any hurt, though it was very wet, and cold, and dark. Mr. Jones, of Fonmon, met me there; and we poured out our souls before God together. I found no weariness, till a little before one, God gave me refreshing sleep.

Sun. 20. I preached once more at Bristol, on, "Little

children, keep yourselves from idols;" immediately after which, I forced myself away from those, to whom my heart was now more united than ever; and I believe their hearts were even as my heart. O what poor words are those: "You abate the reverence and respect which the people owe to their Pastors." Love is all in all; and all who are alive to God must pay this to every true Pastor: wherever a flock is duly fed with the pure milk of the word, they will be ready (were it possible) to pluck out their eyes, and give them to those that are over them in the Lord.

Mon. 21. I took coach, and on Wednesday came to London.

Thur. 24. I found it was good for me to be here, particularly while I was preaching in the evening: the Society afterwards met, but we scarcely knew how to part, our hearts were so enlarged towards each other.

Sat. 26. The morning congregation was increased to above thrice the usual number, while I explained, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ." At Long-Lane likewise, in the evening, I had a crowded audience, to whom I spoke from those words: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out."

Thur. 31. By the unusual overflowing of peace and love to all, which I felt, I was inclined to believe some trial was at hand. At three in the afternoon, my fever came; but finding it was not violent, I would not break my word, and therefore went at four and committed to the earth the remains of one who had died in the Lord a few days before; neither could I refrain from exhorting the almost innumerable multitude of people, who were gathered together round her grave, to cry to God, that they might die the death of the righteous, and their last end be like hers. I then designed to lie down, but Sir John G—— coming, and sending to speak with me, I went to him, and from him into the pulpit, knowing God could renew my strength. I preached according to her request, who was now with God, on those words with which her soul had been so refreshed a little before she went hence, after a long night of doubts and fears: "Thy sun shall no more go down, neither shall thy moon withdraw itself. For the

Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended."

At the Society which followed, many cried after God with a loud and bitter cry. About ten I left them, and committed myself into His hands, to do with me what seemed Him good.

Fri. Jan. 1, 1742. After a night of quiet sleep, I waked in a strong fever, but without any sickness, or thirst, or pain. I consented, however, to keep my bed; but on condition, that every one who desired it, should have liberty to speak with me. I believe fifty or sixty persons did so this day, nor did I find any inconvenience from it. In the evening I sent for all of the Bands who were in the house, that we might magnify our Lord together. A near relation being with me, when they came, I asked her afterwards, If she was not offended? "Offended!" said she, "I wish I could be always among you. I thought I was in heaven."

This night also, by the blessing of God, I slept well, to the utter astonishment of those about me; the Apothecary in particular; who said, "He had never seen such a fever in his life." I had a clear remission in the morning, but about two in the afternoon, a stronger fit than any before; otherwise, I had determined to have been at the meeting of the Bands. But good is the will of the Lord.

Sun. 3. Finding myself quite free from pain, I met the Leaders, morning and afternoon; and joined with a little company of them, in the great sacrifice of thanksgiving. In the evening, it being the Men's Love-feast, I desired they would all come up. Those whom the room would not contain, stood without; while we all with one mouth sang praise to God.

Mon. 4. I waked in perfect health. Does not God both kill and make alive? This day, (I understand,) poor Charles Kinchin died!

Cui pudor, et justitiæ soror,
Incorrupta fides, nudaque veritas,
Quando ullum invenient parem?

I preached morning and evening every day for the remaining part of the week. On Saturday, while I was preaching at Long-Lane, a rude rout lift up their voice on high; I fell upon them without delay: some pulled off their hats, and opened their mouth no more; the rest

stole out, one after another. All that remained were quiet and attentive.

Sun. 10. I got a little time to see Mr. Dolman. Two years ago he seemed to be dying of an asthma; being hardly able to rise at eight o'clock in a morning, after struggling as it were for life. But from the time he came thither first, he rarely failed to be at the Foundery by five o'clock. Nor was he at all the worse; his distemper being suspended, till within a very few days. I found him just on the wing, and full of love, and peace, and joy in believing. And in the same spirit (as I afterwards understood) he continued, till God took him to himself.

Mon. 11. I went twice to Newgate, at the request of poor R—— R——, who lay there under sentence of death; but was refused admittance. Receiving a few lines from him the day he was to die, I desired Mr. Richards to try, if he could be admitted then; but he came back with a fresh refusal.

It was above two years before, that, being destitute and in distress, he applied to me at Bristol for relief. I took him in, and employed him for the present in writing, and keeping accounts for me. Not long after, I placed him in the little School, which was kept by the United Society. There were many suspicions of him during that time, as well as of his companion, Gwillim Snowde; but no proof appeared, so that after three or four months, they quietly returned to London. But they did not deceive God, nor escape his hand. Gwillim Snowde was soon apprehended for a robbery, and, when condemned, sent for me, and said, nothing lay heavier upon him, than his having thus returned evil for good. I believe it was now the desire of poor R—— too, to tell me all that he had done. But the hour was past: I could not now be permitted to see or speak with him. So that he who before would not receive the word of God from my mouth, now desired what he could not obtain; and on Wednesday, he fell a sacrifice to the justice of a long-offended God. O consider this, ye that now forget God, and know not the day of your visitation!

In the afternoon, I buried the body of James St. Angel, who, having long been tried in the fire, on Monday, in the full triumph of faith, gave up his spirit to God.

I heard of several to-day, who began to run well, but did not endure to the end. Men fond of their own

opinions tore them from their brethren, and could not keep them when they had done; but they soon fell back into the world, and are now swallowed up in its pleasures or cares. I fear those zealots who took these souls out of my hands, will give but a poor account of them to God.

On Thursday and Friday I visited the sick, by many of whom I was greatly refreshed.

Mon. 18. We greatly rejoiced in the Lord at Long-Lane, even in the midst of those that contradicted and blasphemed. Nor was it long before many of them also were touched, and blasphemies were turned to praise.

Thur. 21. I again visited many that were sick, but I found no fear either of pain or death among them. One (Mary Whittle) said, "I shall go to my Lord to-morrow; but before I go, he will finish his work." The next day she lay quiet for about two hours, and then opening her eyes, cried out, "It is done! It is done! Christ liveth in me! He lives in me;"—and died in a moment.

Fri. 22. I met the Society at Short's Gardens, Drury-Lane, for the first time.

Sat. 23. I called on another, who was believed to be near death, and greatly triumphing over it. "I know," said she, "that my Redeemer liveth, and will stand at the latter day upon the earth. I fear not death. It hath no sting for me. I shall live for evermore."

Mon. 25. While I was explaining at Long-Lane, "He that committeth sin is of the Devil;" his servants were above measure enraged; they not only made all possible noise, (although, as I had desired before, no man stirred from his place, or answered them a word,) but violently thrust many persons to and fro, struck others, and brake down part of the house. At length they began throwing large stones upon the house, which forcing their way wherever they came, fell down, together with the tiles, among the people, so that they were in danger of their lives. I then told them, "You must not go on thus; I am ordered by the Magistrate, who is, in this respect, to us the Minister of God, to inform him of those who break the laws of God and the King. And I must do it, if you persist herein; otherwise, I am a partaker of your sin." When I ceased speaking, they were more outrageous than before. Upon this I said, "Let three or four calm men take hold of the foremost, and charge a Constable with

him, that the law may take its course." They did so, and brought him into the house, cursing and blaspheming in a dreadful manner. I desired five or six to go with him to Justice Copeland, to whom they nakedly related the fact. The Justice immediately bound him over to the next Sessions, at Guildford.

I observed, when the man was brought into the house, that many of his companions were loudly crying out, "Richard Smith, Richard Smith!" who, as it afterward appeared, was one of their stoutest champions. But Richard Smith answered not; he was fallen into the hands of one higher than they. God had struck him to the heart; as also a woman, who was speaking words not fit to be repeated, and throwing whatever came to hand, whom he overtook in the very act. She came into the house with Richard Smith, fell upon her knees before us all, and strongly exhorted him, "Never to turn back, never to forget the mercy which God had shown to his soul." From this time we had never any considerable interruption or disturbance at Long-Lane, although we withdrew our prosecution, upon the offender's submission and promise of better behaviour.

Tues. 26. I explained at Chelsea, the faith which worketh by love. I was very weak when I went into the room; but the more "the beasts of the people" increased in madness and rage, the more was I strengthened, both in body and soul; so that I believe few in the house, which was exceeding full, lost one sentence of what I spoke. Indeed they could not see me, nor one another at a few yards distance, by reason of the exceeding thick smoke, which was occasioned by the wildfire, and things of that kind, continually thrown into the room. But they who could praise God in the midst of the fires, were not to be affrighted by a little smoke.

Wed. 27. I buried the body of Sarah Whiskin, a young woman late of Cambridge; a short account of whom follows, in the words of one that was with her, during her last struggle for eternity.

"The first time she went, intending to hear Mr. Wesley, was January 3d; but he was then ill. She went again, on Tuesday, 5th, and was not disappointed. From that time she seemed quite taken up with the things above, and could willingly have been always hearing, or praying,

or singing hymns. Wednesday, 13th, she was sent for into the country, at which news she cried violently; being afraid to go, lest she should again be conformable to the world. With tears in her eyes, she asked me, 'What shall I do, I am in a great strait?' and being advised to commit her cause to God, and pray that His will might be done, not her own, she said, 'She would defer her journey three days, to wait upon God, that he might show his will concerning her.' The next day, she was taken ill of a fever; but being something better on Friday, she sent and took a place in the Cambridge coach, for the Tuesday following. Her sister asked her, If she thought it was the will of God she should go? She answered, 'I leave it to the Lord; and am sure he will find a way to prevent it, if it is not for my good.' Sunday, 17th, she was ill again, and desired me to write a note, that she might be prayed for. I asked, What I should write? She answered, 'You know what I want; a lively faith.' Being better on Monday, 18th, she got up, to prepare for her journey, though still desiring God to put a stop to it, if it was not according to his will. As soon as she rose from prayer, she fainted away. When she came to herself, she said, 'Where is that Scripture of Balaam journeying, and the angel of the Lord standing in the way? I can bring this home to myself. I was just going this morning, and see, God has taken away all my strength.'

"From this hour, she was almost continually praying to God, that he would reveal himself to her soul. On Tuesday, 19th, being in tears, I asked, What was the matter? She answered, 'The Devil is very busy with me.' On asking, Who condemns you? she pointed to her heart, and said, 'This; and God is greater than my heart.' On Thursday, after Mr. Richards had prayed with her, she was much cheerfuller; and she could not doubt but God would fulfil the desire which he had given her.

"Fri. 22. One of her sisters coming out of the country to see her, she said, 'If I had come to you, evil would have befallen me; but I am snatched out of the hands of the Devil. Though God has not yet revealed himself unto me, yet I believe, were I to die this night, before to-morrow I should be in heaven.' Her sister saying, I hope God will restore you to health; she replied, 'Let him do what seemeth him good.'

"Sat. 23. She said, 'I saw my mother, and brother, and sister, in my sleep; and they all received a blessing in a moment.' I asked, If she thought she should die, and whether she believed the Lord would receive her soul? Looking very earnestly, she said, 'I have not seen the Lord yet; but I believe I shall see him and live: although these are bold words for a sinner to say; are they not?'

"Sun. 24. I asked her, How have you rested? She answered, 'Very well; though I have had no sleep, and I wanted none; for I have had the Lord with me. O let us not be ashamed of him, but proclaim him upon the house top; and I know, whatever I ask in the name of Jesus, according to his will, I shall have.' Soon after, she called hastily to me, and said, 'I fear I have deceived myself; I thought the Amen was sealed in my heart, but I fear it is not. Go down and pray for me, and let him not go till he has given my heart's desire.' Soon after she broke out into singing, and said, 'I was soon delivered of my fears; I was only afraid of a flattering hope; but if it had been so, I would not have let him go.'

"Her sister that was come to see her was much upon her mind. 'You,' said she, 'are in pain for her; but I have faith for this little child; God has a favour unto her.' In the afternoon, she desired me to write a bill for her. I asked, What shall I write? She said, 'Return thanks for what God has done for me; and pray that he would manifest himself to my relations also. Go to the preaching; leave but one with me.' Soon after we were gone, she rose up, called to the person that was with her, and said, 'Now it is done; I am assured my sins are forgiven.' The person answering, 'Death is a little thing to them that die in the Lord;' she replied with vehemence, 'A little thing, it is nothing!' The person then desiring she would pray for her, she answered, 'I do; I pray for all. I pray for all I know, and for them I do not know; and the Lord will hear the prayer of faith.' At our return, her sister kneeling by the bed-side, she said, 'Are you not comforted, my dear, for me?' Her speech then failing, she made signs for her to be by her, and kissed her, and smiled upon her. She then lay about an hour without speaking or stirring, till about three o'clock on Monday morning, she cried out, 'My Lord and my God!' fetched a double sigh, and died."

Fri. 29. Hearing of one who had been drawn away by those who prophesy smooth things, I went to her house; but she was purposely gone abroad. Perceiving there was no human help, I desired the congregation at Short's Gardens, to join with me in prayer to God, that he would suffer her to have no rest in her spirit till she returned into the way of truth. Two days after, she came to me of her own accord, and confessed, in the bitterness of her soul, that she had no rest, day or night, while she remained with them, out of whose hands God had now delivered her.

Mon. Feb. 1. I found, after the exclusion of some, who did not walk according to the Gospel, about eleven hundred, who are I trust of a more excellent spirit, remained in the Society.

Thur. 4. A Clergyman lately come from America, who was at the preaching last night, called upon me, appeared full of good desires, and seemed willing to cast in his lot with us; but I cannot suddenly answer in this matter. I must first know what spirit he is of: for none can labour with us, unless he "count all things dung and dross, that he may win Christ."

Fri. 5. I set out, and with some difficulty reached Chippenham on Saturday evening; the weather being so extremely rough and boisterous, that I had much ado to sit my horse. On Sunday, about noon, I came to Kingswood, where were many of our friends from Bath, Bristol, and Wales. O that we may ever thus love one another, with a pure heart fervently!

Mon. 8. I rode to Bath, and in the evening explained the latter part of the seventh of St. Luke. Observing many noisy persons at the end of the room, I went and stood in the midst of them; but the greater part slipped away to that end from which I came, and then took heart, and cried aloud again. I paused to give them their full scope, and then began a particular application to them. They were very quiet in a short time; and, I trust, will not forget it so soon as some of them may desire.

Wed. 10, and the following days of this week, I spoke severally with all those who desired to remain in the United Society, to watch over each other in love.

Mon. 15. Many met together to consult on a proper method for discharging the public debt; and it was at length agreed, 1. That every member of the Society who

358 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

was able, should contribute a penny a week. 2. That the whole Society should be divided into little companies or classes, about twelve in each Class; and, 3. That one person in each Class should receive the contribution of the rest, and bring it in to the Stewards weekly.

Fri. 19. I went to Bath: many threatened great things; but I knew the strength of them and their god. I preached on, "He shall save his people from their sins;" none disturbing or interrupting me.

Sat. 20. I preached at Weaver's Hall: it was a glorious time. Several dropped to the ground as it struck by lightning: some cried out in bitterness of soul. I knew not where to end; being constrained to begin anew, again and again. In this acceptable time, we begged of God to restore our brethren, who are departed from us for a season; and to teach us all, to "follow after the things that make for peace;" and the "things whereby one may edify another."

Sun. 21. In the evening, I explained the "exceeding great and precious promises" which are given us: a strong confirmation whereof I read in a plain, artless account of a child, whose body then lay before us. The substance of this was as follows:—

"John Woolley was for some time in your School; but was turned out for his ill behaviour: soon after he ran away from his parents, lurking about for several days and nights together, and hiding himself in holes and corners, that his mother might not find him. During this time he suffered both hunger and cold. Once he was three whole days without sustenance, sometimes weeping and praying by himself, and sometimes playing with other loose boys.

"One night he came to the New-Room: Mr. Wesley was then speaking of disobedience to parents; he was quite confounded, and thought there never was in the world so wicked a child as himself. He went home, and never ran away any more. His mother saw the change in his whole behaviour, but knew not the cause. He would often get up stairs by himself to prayer, and often go alone into the fields, having done with all his idle companions.

"And now the Devil began to set upon him with all his might, continually tempting him to self-murder; some-

times he was vehemently pressed to hang himself, sometimes to leap into the river: but this only made him the more earnest in prayer, in which, after he had been one day wrestling with God, he saw himself, he said, surrounded on a sudden with an inexpressible light, and was so filled with joy and the love of God, that he scarcely knew where he was; and with such love to all mankind, that he could have laid himself on the ground, for his worst enemies to trample upon.

"From this time his father and mother were surprised at him, he was so diligent to help them in all things. When they went to the preaching, he was careful to give their supper to the other children; and when he had put them to bed, hurried away to the Room, to light his father or mother home. Meantime, he lost no opportunity of hearing the preaching himself, or of doing any good he could, either at home, or in any place where he was.

"One day walking in the fields, he fell into talk with a farmer, who spoke very slightly of religion. John told him, he ought not to talk so; and enlarged upon the word of the Apostle, (which he begged him to consider deeply,) 'Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.' The man was amazed; caught the child in his arms, and knew not how to part with him.

"His father and mother once hearing him speak pretty loud in the next room, listened to hear what he said; he was praying thus: 'Lord, I do not expect to be heard for my much speaking; Thou knowest my heart; Thou knowest my wants.' He then descended to particulars. Afterward, he prayed very earnestly for his parents, and for his brothers and sisters by name; then for Mr. John and Charles Wesley, that God would set their faces as a flint, and give them to go on, conquering and to conquer; then for all the other Ministers he could remember by name, and for all that were, or desired to be, true Ministers of Christ.

"In the beginning of his illness, his mother asked him, If he wanted any thing? He answered, 'Nothing but Christ, and I am as sure of him as if I had him already.' He often said, 'O mother, if all the world believed in Christ, what a happy world would it be? And they may; for Christ died for every soul of man. I was the worst of sinners, and he died for me. O thou that callest the

worst of sinners, call me. O, it is a free gift; I am sure I have done nothing to deserve it.'

"On Wednesday he said to his mother, 'I am in very great trouble for my father; he has always taken an honest care of his family, but he does not know God; if he dies in the state he is in now, he cannot be saved. I have prayed for him, and will pray for him.¹ If God should give him the true faith, and then take him to himself, do not you fear; do not you be troubled. God has promised to be a father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow. I will pray for him and you in heaven; and I hope we shall sing Hallelujah in heaven together.'

"To his eldest sister he said, 'Do not puff yourself up with pride. When you receive your wages, which is not much, lay it out in plain necessities; and if you are inclined to be merry, do not sing songs; that is the Devil's diversion: there are many lies and ill things in those idle songs. Do you sing psalms and hymns. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. When you are at work, you may lift up your heart to God; and be sure never to rise or go to bed, without asking his blessing.'

"He added, 'I shall die; but do not cry for me; why should you cry for me? Consider what a joyful thing it is to have a brother go to heaven! I am not a man; I am but a boy. But is it not in the Bible, 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast ordained strength?' I know where I am going; I would not be without this knowledge for a thousand worlds: for though I am not in heaven yet, I am as sure of it as if I was.'

"On Wednesday night, he wrestled much with God in prayer; at last, throwing his arms open, he cried, 'Come, come, Lord Jesus! I am thine. Amen and Amen.' He said, 'God answers me in my heart, Be of good cheer; thou hast overcome the world;' and immediately after, he was filled with love and joy unspeakable.

"He said to his mother, 'That school was the saving of my soul; for there I began to seek the Lord. But how is it, that a person no sooner begins to seek the Lord, but Satan straight stirs up all his instruments against him?'

"When he was in agony of pain he cried out, 'O

¹ N.B. His father died not long after.

Saviour, give me patience: thou hast given me patience, but give me more. Give me thy love, and pain is nothing. I have deserved all this, and a thousand times more; for there is no sin but I have been guilty of.'

"Awhile after he said, 'O mother, how is this? If a man does not do his work, the masters in the world will not pay him his wages. But it is not so with God; he gives me good wages, and yet I am sure I have done nothing to gain them. O, it is a free gift; it is free for every soul, for Christ has died for all.'

"On Thursday morning his mother asked him, How he did? He said, 'I have had much struggling to-night; but my Saviour is so loving to me, I do not mind it; it is no more than nothing to me.'

"Then he said, 'I desire to be buried from the Room, and I desire Mr. Wesley would preach a sermon over me on those words of David: (unless he thinks any other to be more fit:)' "Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I have kept thy word."

"I asked him, How do you find yourself now? He said, 'In great pain, but full of love.' I asked, 'But does not the love of God overcome pain?' He answered, 'Yes! pain is nothing to me; I did sing praises to the Lord in the midst of my greatest pain, and I could not help it.' I asked him, If he was willing to die? He replied, 'O yes; with all my heart.' I said, 'But if life and death were set before you, what would you choose then?' He answered, 'To die, and to be with Christ: I long to be out of this wicked world.'

"On Thursday night he slept much sweeter than he had done for some time before. In the morning he begged to see Mr. John Wesley. When Mr. Wesley came, and after some other questions, asked him, what he should pray for? He said, 'That God would give him a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within him.' When prayer was ended, he seemed much enlivened, and said, 'I thought I should have died to-day; but I must not be in haste; I am content to stay: I will tarry the Lord's leisure.'

"On Saturday, one asked if he still chose to die? He said, 'I have no will; my will is resigned to the will of God; but I shall die. Mother, be not troubled; I shall go away like a lamb.'

"On Sunday he spoke exceeding little. On Monday his

speech began to falter. On Tuesday, it was gone; but he was fully in his senses, almost continually lifting up his eyes to heaven. On Wednesday, his speech being restored, his mother said, 'Jacky, you have not been with your Saviour to-night.' He replied, 'Yes, I have.' She asked, 'What did he say?' He answered, 'He bid me not to be afraid of the Devil; for he had no power to hurt me at all, but I should tread him under my feet.' He lay very quiet on Wednesday night. The next morning he spent in continual prayer, often repeating the Lord's Prayer, and earnestly commending his soul into the hands of God.

"He then called for his little brother and sister to kiss them, and for his mother, whom he desired to kiss him. Then (between nine and ten) he said, 'Now let me kiss you;' which he did, and immediately fell asleep.

"He lived some months above thirteen years."

Sun. 28. In the evening I set out for Wales. I lay that night about six miles from Bristol, and preached in the morning, March 1, to a few of the neighbours. We then hastened to the passage; but the boat was gone half an hour before the usual time; so I was obliged to wait till five in the afternoon: we then set out with a fair breeze, but when we were nearly half over the river, the wind entirely failed. The boat could not bear up against the ebbing tide, but was driven down among the rocks, on one of which we made shift to scramble up, whence, about seven, we got to land.

That night I went forward about five miles, and the next morning came to Cardiff. There I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Jones of Fonmon, still pressing on into all the fulness of God. I rode with him to Wenvo. The church was thoroughly filled, while I explained the former part of the second lesson, concerning the barren fig-tree: and the power of the Lord was present both to wound and to heal.

I explained, in the evening, at Fonmon, though in weakness and pain, how Jesus saveth us from our sins. The next morning, at eight, I preached at Bolston, a little town four miles from Fonmon. Thence I rode to Lanttrissent, and sent to the Minister, to desire the use of his church. His answer was, "He should have been very willing; but the Bishop had forbidden him." By

what law? I am not legally convicted either of heresy or any other crime. By what authority then am I suspended from preaching? By barefaced arbitrary power.

Another Clergyman immediately offered me his church; but it being too far off, I preached in a large room, spent a little time with the Society in prayer and exhortation, and then took horse for Cardiff.

Thur. 4. About noon I preached at Lanissan, and was afterward much refreshed in meeting the little earnest Society. I preached at Cardiff at seven, on, "Be not righteous over much," to a larger congregation than before; and then exhorted the Society to fear only the being over wicked, or the falling short of the full image of God.

Fri. 5. I talked with one who used frequently to say, "I pray God I may never have this new faith. I desire that I may not know my sins forgiven till I come to die." But as she was some weeks since reading the Bible at home, the clear light broke in upon her soul. She knew all her sins were blotted out, and cried aloud, "My Lord and my God!"

In the evening I expounded, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." We afterwards admitted several new members into the Society, and were greatly comforted together.

Sat. 6. I left Cardiff, and about eight in the evening came to Bristol.

Wed. 10. I was with a gentlewoman, whose distemper has puzzled the most eminent physicians for many years; it being such as they could neither give any rational account of, nor find any remedy for. The plain case is, she is tormented by an evil spirit following her day and night. Yea, try all your drugs over and over, but at length it will plainly appear, that "this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

Fri. 12. I read part of Dr. Cheyne's Natural Method of Curing Diseases; of which I cannot but observe, it is one of the most ingenious books which I ever saw. But what epicure will ever regard it? for "the man talks against good eating and drinking!"

Our Lord was gloriously present with us at the watch night; so that my voice was lost in the cries of the people. After midnight, about an hundred of us walked home together, singing, and rejoicing, and praising God.

Fri. 19. I rode once more to Pensford, at the earnest request of several serious people. The place where they desired me to preach, was a little green spot near the town. But I had no sooner begun, than a great company of rabble, hired (as we afterwards found) for that purpose, came furiously upon us, bringing a bull which they had been baiting, and now strove to drive in among the people; but the beast was wiser than his drivers, and continually ran either on one side of us or the other, while we quietly sang praise to God, and prayed for about an hour. The poor wretches finding themselves disappointed, at length seized upon the bull, now weak and tired, after being so long torn and beaten both by dogs and men, and by main strength partly dragged and partly thrust him in among the people. When they had forced their way to the little table on which I stood, they strove several times to throw it down, by thrusting the helpless beast against it, who of himself stirred no more than a log of wood. I once or twice put aside his head with my hand, that the blood might not drop upon my clothes, intending to go on as soon as the hurry should be a little over; but the table falling down, some of our friends caught me in their arms, and carried me right away on their shoulders, while the rabble wreaked their vengeance on the table, which they tore bit from bit. We went a little way off, where I finished my discourse without any noise or interruption.

Sun. 21. In the evening I rode to Marshfield, and on Tuesday, in the afternoon, came to London.

Wed. 24. I preached, for the last time, in the French Chapel at Wapping, on, "If ye continue in my word, then, are ye my disciples indeed."

Thur. 25. I appointed several earnest and sensible men to meet me, to whom I showed the great difficulty I had long found, of knowing the people who desired to be under my care. After much discourse, they all agreed there could be no better way to come to a sure, thorough knowledge of each person, than to divide them into Classes, like those at Bristol, under the inspection of those in whom I could most confide. This was the origin of our Classes at London, for which I can never sufficiently praise God; the unspeakable usefulness of the institution having ever since been more and more manifest.

Wed. 31. My brother set out for Oxford. In the even-

ing I called upon Ann Calcut. She had been speechless for some time; but almost as soon as we began to pray, God restored her speech. She then witnessed a good confession indeed. I expected to see her no more; but from that hour the fever left her, and in a few days she arose and walked, glorifying God.

Sun. April 4. About two in the afternoon, being the time my brother was preaching at Oxford, before the University, I desired a few persons to meet with me and join in prayer. We continued herein much longer than we at first designed, and believed we had the petition we asked of God.

Fri. 9. We had the first watch-night in London. We commonly choose for this solemn service the Friday night nearest the full moon, either before or after, that those of the congregation who live at a distance may have light to their several homes. The service begins at half an hour past eight, and continues till a little after midnight. We have often found a peculiar blessing at these seasons. There is generally a deep awe upon the congregation, perhaps, in some measure, owing to the silence of the night; particularly in singing the hymn, with which we commonly conclude:—

“Hearken to the solemn voice!
The awful midnight cry!”
Waiting souls, rejoice, rejoice,
And feel the Bridegroom nigh.”

April 16. Being Good Friday, I was desired to call on one that was ill at Islington. I found there several of my old acquaintance, who loved me once as the apple of their eye. By staying with them but a little, I was clearly convinced, that was I to stay but one week among them, (unless the providence of God plainly called me so to do,) I should be as still as poor Mr. St—. I felt their words as it were thrilling through my veins. So soft! so pleasing to nature! It seemed our religion was but a heavy, coarse thing; nothing so delicate, so refined as theirs. I wonder any person of taste (that has not faith) can stand before them!

Sun. 18. In the afternoon, one who had tasted the love of God, but had turned again to folly, was deeply convinced, and torn as it were in pieces, by guilt, and remorse, and fear; and even after the sermon was ended, she continued in the same agony, it seemed both of body

366 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

and soul. Many of us were then met together in another part of the house; but her cries were so piercing, though at a distance, that I could not pray, nor hardly speak, being quite chilled every time I heard them. I asked whether it were best to bring her in, or send her out of the house. It being the general voice, she was brought in, and we cried to God to heal her backsliding. We soon found we were asking according to his will. He not only bade her "depart in peace," but filled many others, till then heavy of heart, with peace and joy in believing.

Mon. 19. At noon I preached at Brentford, and again about seven in the evening. Many who had threatened to do terrible things were present; but they made no disturbance at all.

Tues. 20. Was the day on which our noisy neighbours had agreed to summon all their forces together, a great number of whom came early in the evening, and planted themselves as near the desk as possible: but He that sitteth in heaven laugheth them to scorn. The greater part soon vanished away; and to some of the rest I trust his word came with the demonstration of his Spirit.

Fri. 23. I spent an agreeable hour with Mr. Wh——. I believe he is sincere in all he says concerning his earnest desire of joining hand in hand with all that love the Lord Jesus Christ; but if (as some would persuade me) he is not, the loss is all on his own side. I am just as I was: I go on my way, whether he goes with me or stays behind.

Sun. 25. At five I preached in Ratcliff-Square, near Stepney, on, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." A multitude of them were gathered together before I came home, and filled the street above and below the Foundery. Some who apprehended we should have but homely treatment, begged me to go in as soon as possible; but I told them "No; provide you for yourselves; but I have a message to deliver first." I told them, after a few words, "Friends, let every man do as he pleases; but it is my manner, when I speak of the things of God, or when another does, to uncover my head;" which I accordingly did, and many of them did the same. I then exhorted them to repent and believe the Gospel. Not a few of them appeared to be deeply affected. Now, Satan, count thy gains!

Mon. 26. I called on one who was sorrowing, as without

hope, for her son who was turned again to folly. I advised her, to wrestle with God for his soul: and in two days, He brought home the wandering sheep, fully convinced of the error of his ways, and determined to choose the better part.

Sat. May 1. One called, whom I had often advised, "Not to hear them that preach smooth things." But she could not believe there was any danger therein, "Seeing we were all (she said) children of God." The effects of it, which now appeared in her, were these: 1. She was grown above measure wise in her own eyes. She knew every thing as well as any could tell her, and needed not to be taught of man. 2. She utterly despised all her brethren, saying, "They were all in the dark; they knew not what faith meant." 3. She despised her teachers as much, if not more, than them; saying, "They knew nothing of the Gospel; they preached nothing but the law, and brought all into bondage who minded what they said." Indeed, said she, after I had heard Mr. Sp— I was amazed for I never since heard you preach one good sermon. And I said to my husband, "My dear, Did Mr. Wesley always preach so?" And he said, "Yes, my dear; but your eyes were not opened."

Thur. 6. I described that falling away, spoken of by St. Paul to the Thessalonians, which we so terribly feel to be already come, and to have overspread the (so called) Christian world. One of my hearers was highly offended at my supposing any of the Church of England to be concerned in this. But his speech soon bewrayed him to be of no church at all, zealous and orthodox as he was. So that after I had appealed to his own heart, as well as to all that heard him, he retired with confusion of face.

Sat. 8. One of Fetter-Lane mentioning a letter he had received from a poor man in Lincolnshire, I read and desired a copy of it; part of which is as follows:—

Samuel Meggot to Richard Ridley.

BROTHER,

May 3, 1742.

"I HAVE now much communion with thee, and desire to have more.—But till now I found a great gulf between us, so that we could not one pass to the other. Therefore thy letters were very death to me, and thou wast to me as a branch broke off and thrown by to wither.—Yet I waited, if the Lord should please to let us into the same

union we had before. So the Lord hath given it. And in the same I write; desiring it may continue until death.

"I wrote before to thee and John Harrison, 'Be not afraid to be found sinners,' hoping you would not separate the law from the Spirit, until the flesh was found dead: for I think our hearts are discovered by the law, yea, every tittle, and condemned by the same. Then are we quickened in the Spirit. Justice cannot be separated from mercy; neither can they be one greater than the other. 'Keep the commandments; and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter.' Mark that. 'Thy sins be forgiven thee! Arise, take up thy bed and walk.' Here is work before mercy, and mercy before work. So then, through the law by faith our heart is pure.—Beware therefore of them who, while they promise you liberty, are themselves the servants of corruption. O dead faith, that cannot always live pure! Treacherous Judas, that thus betrayest thy Master!—

"Let the law arraign you, till Jesus Christ bring forth judgment in your hearts unto victory. Yea, let your hearts be open wide, receiving both, that the one may confirm the other. So thou livest so much in the Son's righteousness, that the law saith, I have nought against thee.—This is faith, that thus conquers the old man, in putting him off, and putting on Christ. Purify your hearts by faith; so shall the temple of God be holy and the altar therein, that spiritual sacrifices may be offered, acceptable to the Lord. Now if any man be otherwise minded, let him be ashamed. For if there lives any of ourself in us, that one branch of nature, that one member, shall cause the whole man to burn everlastingly. Let as many as know not this perfection, which is by Jesus Christ, press forward by faith till they come to the experimental knowledge of it.

"But how many souls have I seen washed, and turned again to the wallowing in their sins? O that Lamb! how is he put to an open shame again, who had once reconciled them to the Father!

"Now I would write a little of the travail of my own soul. I thought myself right long since: but when the light of life came, I saw myself ready to die in my sins. I had faith; but I had it by knowledge, and not in power. Yet by this faith I had great liberty: nevertheless this faith kept my heart corrupt, and the whole man of sin

alive. My way of proceeding was thus: Sometimes I was overtaken in a fault, and so was put to a stand a little; but as soon as I could, I would wipe myself by knowledge, saying, 'Christ died for sinners.' I was right so far and no farther. He died for sinners; but not to save him that continues in his sins. For whomsoever he cleanses, they are clean indeed: first sinners, then saints; and so they remain. By-and-by I was overtaken again; and the oftener I was overtaken, the stronger I thought myself in the Lord. Yea, for my corruption's sake I was forced to get more knowledge, or else I should have been condemned. So I arrived at such a pitch of knowledge, (*i.e.* of notional faith,) 'that I could crucify Christ with one hand, and take pardon with the other; so that I was always happy. Here was the mystery of iniquity, conceived in my heart. For it led me to this: If I was to take of any man's goods, I would say or think, I am a sinner of myself; but Christ died for me; so his righteousness is mine.' And farther, I could not see, but if I was to kill a man, yet I should be pure. So great a friend to sin and the Devil was I, that I would have made sin and the Devil to become the righteousness of God in Christ; yea, that I began to love him, whom the Lord hath reserved for everlasting fire.—

"So I held Christ without, and the Devil within. This is a mystery, that I should feel myself safe and pure, and yet the Devil to be in me. Judge who gave me this purity, and taught me to be thus perfect in Christ! But, ere long, that began to break forth in action which I had conceived in my heart. But it was the Lord's will I should not go far, before I was again brought under the law. Then did I stand stripped and naked of that knowledge. I wish all who are so deceived as I was, were brought under the law, that they might learn what it is to come to Jesus Christ. And I wish them not to pass from under the law, till they clearly see the end of the law come into their hearts.

"The law being mixed with faith makes it quick and powerful. For as the law will not leave one hair of our heads uncondemned, so faith will not leave one unreconciled. And blessed is he who lives in the same reconciliation, and turns not as a dog to his vomit. Then shall he be called the child of God, who cannot sin, because his seed remaineth in him.—

"Thou writest, 'Jesus makes it manifest to thee, that thou art a great sinner.' That is well; and if more, it would be better for thee. Again thou sayest, 'Since thou first receivedst a full and free pardon for all thy sins, thou hast received so many fresh pardons, that they are quite out of count.' And this thou sayest, is spoken 'to thy own shame, and thy Saviour's praise.' Come, my brother, let us both be more ashamed. Let us see where we are, and what we are doing to the Lamb. We are not glorifying him: (let us not mistake ourselves thus :) we are crucifying him afresh. We are putting him to an open shame, and bringing swift damnation on our own heads.

"Again thou sayest, 'Though thy sins be great and many, yet thy Saviour's grace is greater.' Thou sayest right; or else, how should we have been cleansed? But his great cleansing power does not design that we should become foul again; lest he call us away in our uncleanness, and we perish for ever. For it will not profit us, that we were once cleansed, if we be found in uncleanness.

"Take heed to thyself, that the knowledge that is in thee deceive thee not. For thou writest so to my experience, that I can tell thee as plain how thou art, or plainer than thou canst thyself. Thou sayest, 'After thou hast done something amiss, thou needest not to be unhappy one moment, if thou wilt but go to thy Saviour.' Is not this the very state I have mentioned? O that that knowledge was cast out! So shouldest thou always do the things that please the Father. O my dear brother, how art thou bewitched by the deceiver of thy soul? Thou art a stranger to the Saviour, who is gone to heaven, to give repentance to his people and remission of sins. I am afraid the Devil is thy saviour; more of him is manifest in thee than of Christ. He tells thee, thou art pure and washed; but he couzens thee; yea, his deceitfulness cries out for vengeance. Yet he would be a Christ or a God.

"Thou sayest, thou 'hast need of remission of sins every day.' Yes, so thou hast, and more. Thou hast need every moment; so shouldest thou be clean; for this every moment should be eternity to thy soul. Thou thankest God that 'He hath provided such a high-priest for thee.' Let him be thine; so shalt thou be ruled by him every moment. What? Is he such a Saviour as can

cleanse us from sin and not keep us in the same? Judge where thou art. Thou and I and many more were once made pure. And we were pure while we believed the same, and were kept by the Father for his own name's sake. But how long did we thus believe? Let every man judge himself.

"Now, my brother, answer for thyself. Dost thou believe that thou must always have this heart, which is corrupted through and through with sin? I say, dost thou believe thy heart must be thus unpure? If thou dost, the same doctrine must be preached to thee which was at first, 'Ye must receive the Holy Ghost;' that is, thou must be brought to the first remission, and there thou wilt see Jesus laid slain in thy heart. This thy first purity I will acknowledge, and none else. I believe the foundation of life was once in thee; but many together with thee have fallen away. Thou hearest how I acknowledge thee and where, and nowhere else. And herein I have communion with thee in my spirit, and hope it will continue to the end."——

And is poor Samuel Meggot himself now fallen into the very same snare, against which he so earnestly warned his friend? Lord, what is man!

Sun. 9. I preached in Charles'-Square to the largest congregation I have ever seen there. Many of the baser people would fain have interrupted; but they found, after a time, it was lost labour. One who was more serious was (as she afterwards confessed) exceedingly angry at them; but she was quickly rebuked by a stone, which light upon her forehead, and struck her down to the ground. In that moment her anger was at an end, and love only filled her heart.

Wed. 12. I waited on the Archbishop of Canterbury, with Mr. Whitefield, and again on Friday; as also on the Bishop of London. I trust, if we should be called to appear before princes we should not be ashamed.

Mon. 17. I had designed this morning to set out for Bristol; but was unexpectedly prevented. In the afternoon I received a letter from Leicestershire, pressing me to come without delay, and pay the last office of friendship to one whose soul was on the wing for eternity. On Thursday, 20th, I set out. The next afternoon I stopped a little at Newport-Pagnell, and then rode on till I over-

took a serious man, with whom I immediately fell into conversation. He presently gave me to know what his opinions were; therefore I said nothing to contradict them. But that did not content him. He was quite uneasy to know, "Whether I held the doctrine of the decrees as he did:" but I told him over and over, "We had better keep to practical things, lest we should be angry at one another." And so we did for two miles, till he caught me unawares, and dragged me into the dispute before I knew where I was. He then grew warmer and warmer; told me, "I was rotten at heart; and supposed I was one of John Wesley's followers." I told him, "No; I am John Wesley himself." Upon which

*Improvvisum aspris veluti qui sentibus anguem
Pressit——*

he would gladly have run away outright. But being the better mounted of the two, I kept close to his side, and endeavoured to show him his heart, till we came into the street of Northampton. Saturday, 22d, about five in the afternoon, I reached Donnington-Park.

Miss Cowper was just alive. But as soon as we came in, her spirit greatly revived. For three days we rejoiced in the grace of God, whereby she was filled with a hope full of immortality; with meekness, gentleness, patience, and humble love, knowing in whom she had believed.

Tues. 25. I set out early in the morning with John Taylor; (since settled in London;) and Wednesday, 26th, in the evening, reached Birstal, six miles beyond Wakefield.

John Nelson had wrote to me some time before: but at that time I had little thought of seeing him. Hearing he was at home, I sent for him to our inn: whence he immediately carried me to his house, and gave me an account of the strange manner wherein he had been led on, from the time of our parting at London.

He had full business there, and large wages. But from the time of his finding peace with God it was continually upon his mind, that he must return (though he knew not why) to his native place. He did so about Christmas, in the year 1740. His relations and acquaintance soon began to inquire, "What he thought of this new faith?" And whether he believed, there was any such thing as a man's knowing that his sins were forgiven? John told them

point blank, That "this new faith, as they called it, was the old faith of the Gospel; and that he himself was as sure his sins were forgiven, as he could be of the shining of the sun." This was soon noised abroad: more and more came to inquire concerning these strange things. Some put him upon the proof of the great truths which such inquiries naturally led him to mention. And thus he was brought unawares to quote, explain, compare and enforce several parts of Scripture. This he did, at first, sitting in his house, till the company increased so that the house could not contain them. Then he stood at the door, which he was commonly obliged to do in the evening, as soon as he came from work. God immediately set his seal to what was spoken: and several believed, and therefore declared, that God was merciful also to their unrighteousness, and had forgiven all their sins.

Mr. Ingham, hearing of this, came to Birstal, inquired into the facts, talked with John himself, and examined him in the closest manner, both touching his knowledge and spiritual experience: after which he encouraged him to proceed, and pressed him, as often as he had opportunity, to come to any of the places where himself had been, and speak to the people as God should enable him.

But he soon gave offence, both by his plainness of speech and by advising people to go to church and sacrament. Mr. Ingham reprov'd him; but finding him incorrigible, forbade any that were in his Societies to hear him. But being persuaded, this is the will of God concerning him, he continues to this hour working in the day, that he may be burthensome to no man, and in the evening "testifying the truth as it is in Jesus."

I preached at noon, on the top of Birstal-Hill, to several hundreds of plain people; and spent the afternoon in talking severally with those who had tasted of the grace of God. All of these I found had been vehemently pressed, "Not to run about to church and sacrament," and to "keep their religion to themselves; to be still; not to talk about what they had experienced." At eight I preached on the side of Dewsbury-Moor, about two miles from Birstal, and earnestly exhorted all who believed to wait upon God in his own ways, and to let their light shine before men.

Thur. 27. We left Birstal, and on Friday, 28th, came to Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

374. Rev. John Wesley's Journal

I read with great expectation, yesterday and to-day, Xenophon's "Memorable things of Socrates." I was utterly amazed at his want of judgment. How many of these things would Plato never have mentioned! But it may be well that we see the shades too of the brightest picture in all heathen antiquity.

We came to Newcastle about six, and after a short refreshment walked into the town. I was surprised; so much drunkenness, cursing and swearing (even from the mouths of little children) do I never remember to have seen and heard before, in so small a compass of time. Surely this place is ripe for Him, who "came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Sat. 29. I was informed, that "one Mr. Hall had been there about a year before, and had preached several times;" but I could not learn that there was the least fruit of his labour; nor could I find any that desired to hear him again, nor any that appeared to care for such matters.

Sun. 30. At seven, I walked down to Sand-Gate, the poorest and most contemptible part of the town, and standing at the end of the street with John Taylor, began to sing the hundredth psalm. Three or four people came out to see what was the matter, who soon increased to four or five hundred. I suppose there might be twelve or fifteen hundred before I had done preaching; to whom I applied those solemn words, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed."

Observing the people when I had done to stand gaping, and staring upon me, with the most profound astonishment, I told them, "If you desire to know who I am, my name is John Wesley; at five in the evening, with God's help, I design to preach here again."

At five, the hill on which I designed to preach was covered from the top to the bottom. I never saw so large a number of people together, either in Moorfields or at Kennington-Common. I knew it was not possible for the one-half to hear, although my voice was then strong and clear, and I stood so as to have them all in view, as they were ranged on the side of the hill. The word of God which I set before them was, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely." After preaching, the

poor people were ready to tread me under foot, out of pure love and kindness. I was some time before I could possibly get out of the press. I then went back another way than I came. But several were got to our inn before me; by whom I was vehemently importuned to stay with them, at least a few days, or, however, one day more. But I could not consent; having given my word to be at Birstal, with God's leave, on Tuesday night.

Some of these told me, "They were members of a religious Society, which had subsisted for many years, and had always gone on in a prudent, regular manner, and been well spoken of by all men. They likewise informed me what a fine library they had, and that the Steward read a sermon every Sunday." And yet how many of the publicans and harlots will go into the kingdom of heaven before these!

Mon. 31. About three I left Newcastle. I read over to-day the famous Dr. Pitcairn's works; but I was utterly disappointed by that dry, sour, controversial book! We came in the evening to Boroughbridge, where, to my great surprise, the mistress of the house, though much of a gentlewoman, desired, she and her family might join with us in prayer. They did so likewise between four and five in the morning. Perhaps even this seed may bring forth fruit.

Tues. June 1. As we were riding through Knaresborough, not intending to stop there, a young man stopped me in the street, and earnestly desired me to go to his house. I did so. He told me, "Our talking with a man, as we went through the town before, had set many in a flame, and that the sermon we gave him had travelled from one end of the town to the other." While I was with him, a woman came and desired to speak with me. I went to her house, whither five or six of her friends came, one of whom had been long under deep conviction. We spent an hour in prayer, and all our spirits were refreshed.

About one we came to Mr. Moore's, at Beeston, near Leeds. His son rode with me after dinner to Birstal, where (a multitude of people being gathered from all parts) I explained to them the spirit of bondage and adoption. I began about seven, but could not conclude till half an hour past nine.

Wed. 2. I was invited to Mrs. Holmes's, near Halifax,

where I preached at noon, on, "Ask and ye shall receive." Thence I rode to Dr. L——'s, the Vicar of Halifax, a candid inquirer after truth. I called again upon Mrs. Holmes in my return; when her sister a little surprised me by asking, "Ought not a Minister of Christ to do three things: first to preach his law, in order to convince of sin;—then to offer free pardon through faith in his blood to all convinced sinners;—and in the third place, to preach his law again, as a rule for those that believe? I think, if any one does otherwise, he is no true Minister of Christ: he divides what God has joined, and cannot be said to preach the whole Gospel."

I preached at eight, near Dewsbury-Moor; and at eight the next morning, Thursday, 3d, at Mirfield, where I found Mr. Ingham had been an hour before. Great part of the day I spent in speaking with those who have tasted the powers of the world to come; by whose concurrent testimony I find, that Mr. I——'s method to this day is, 1. To endeavour to persuade them that they are in a delusion, and have indeed no faith at all; if this cannot be done, then, 2. To make them keep it to themselves; and, 3. To prevent their going to the church or sacrament, at least to guard them from having any reverence, or expecting to find any blessing in those ordinances of God.

In the evening I preached at Adwalton, a mile from Birstal, in a broad part of the highway, the people being too numerous to be contained in any house in the town. After preaching, and the next day, I spoke with more, who had or sought for redemption through Christ: all of whom I perceived had been advised also to put their light under a bushel; or to forsake the ordinances of God, in order to find Christ.

Fri. 4. At noon I preached at Birstal once more. All the hearers were deeply attentive; whom I now confidently and cheerfully committed to "the great Shepherd and Bishop of souls."

Hence I rode to Beeston. Here I met once more with the works of a celebrated author, of whom many great men cannot speak without rapture, and the strongest expressions of admiration. I mean Jacob Behme. The book I now opened was, his *Mysterium Magnum*, or Exposition of Genesis. Being conscious of my ignorance, I earnestly besought God to enlighten my understanding.

I seriously considered what I read, and endeavoured to weigh it in the balance of the sanctuary. And what can I say concerning the part I read? I can and must say thus much, (and that with as full evidence as I can say that two and two make four,) it is most sublime nonsense; inimitable bombast; fustian not to be paralleled! All of a piece with his inspired interpretation of the word *tetragrammaton*: on which (mistaking it for the unutterable name itself, whereas it means only a word consisting of four letters) he comments with such exquisite gravity and solemnity, telling you the meaning of every syllable of it!

Sat. 5. I rode for Epworth. Before we came thither, I made an end of Madam Guyon's Short Method of Prayer, and *Les Torrents spirituelles*. Ah, my brethren! I can answer your riddle, now I have ploughed with your heifer. The very words I have so often heard some of you use, are not your own, no more than they are God's. They are only retailed from this poor Quietest; and that with the utmost faithfulness. O that ye knew how much God is wiser than man! Then would you drop Quietists and Mystics together, and at all hazards keep to the plain, practical, written word of God.

It being many years since I had been in Epworth before, I went to an inn, in the middle of the town, not knowing whether there were any left in it now, who would not be ashamed of my acquaintance. But an old servant of my father's, with two or three poor women, presently found me out. I asked her, "Do you know any in Epworth who are in earnest to be saved?" She answered, "I am, by the grace of God; and I know I am saved through faith." I asked, "Have you then the peace of God? Do you know that he has forgiven your sins?" She replied, "I thank God, I know it well. And many here can say the same thing."

Sun. 6. A little before the service began, I went to Mr. Romley the Curate, and offered to assist him, either by preaching or reading prayers. But he did not care to accept of my assistance. The church was exceeding full in the afternoon, a rumour being spread that I was to preach. But the sermon on "Quench not the spirit" was not suitable to the expectation of many of the hearers. Mr. Romley told them, "One of the most dangerous ways of quenching the spirit was by enthusiasm; and enlarged on

378 · Rev. John Wesley's Journal

the character of an enthusiast, in a very florid and oratorical manner." After sermon John Taylor stood in the church-yard, and gave notice as the people were coming out, "Mr. Wesley, not being permitted to preach in the church, designs to preach here at six o'clock."

Accordingly at six I came, and found such a congregation as I believe Epworth never saw before. I stood near the east end of the church, upon my father's tombstone, and cried, "The kingdom of heaven is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

At eight I went to Edward Smith's, where were many not only of Epworth, but of Burnham, Haxey, Ouston, Belton, and other villages round about, who greatly desired that I would come over to them and help them. I was now in a strait between two; desiring to hasten forward in my journey, and yet not knowing how to leave those poor bruised reeds in the confusion wherein I found them. John Harrison it seems, and Richard Ridley, had told them, in express terms, "All the ordinances are man's inventions; and if you go to church or sacrament, you will be damned." Many hereupon wholly forsook the church, and others knew not what to do. At last I determined to spend some days here, that I might have time both to preach in each town, and to speak severally with those in every place, who had found or waited for salvation.

Mon. 7. I preached at Burnham, a mile from Epworth, on, "The Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins." At eight in the evening I stood again on my father's tomb, (as I did every evening this week,) and cried aloud to the earnestly-attentive congregation, "By grace ye are saved, through faith."

Tues. 8. I walked to Hibbaldstow (about twelve miles from Epworth) to see my brother and sister. The Minister of Ouston (two miles from Epworth) having sent me word, "I was welcome to preach in his church," I called there in my return: but his mind being changed, I went to another place in the town, and there explained, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins." At eight I largely enforced at Epworth the great truth, (so little understood in what is called a Christian country,) "Unto him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith

is counted to him for righteousness." I went thence to the place where the little Society met, which was sufficiently thronged both within and without. Here I found some from Hainton, (a town twenty miles off,) who informed us, that God had begun a work there also, and constrained several to cry out in the bitterness of their soul, "What must I do to be saved?"

Wed. 9. I rode over to a neighbouring town, to wait upon a Justice of Peace, a man of candour and understanding; before whom (I was informed) their angry neighbours had carried a whole waggon-load of these new heretics. But when he asked, what they had done? there was a deep silence; for that was a point their conductors had forgot. At length one said, "Why they pretended to be better than other people. And besides, they prayed from morning to night." Mr. S. asked, "But have they done nothing besides?" "Yes, Sir," said an old man; "An't please your worship, they have *convarted* my wife. Till she went among them she had such a tongue! And now she is as quiet as a lamb." "Carry them back, carry them back," replied the Justice, "and let them convert all the scolds in the town."

I went from hence to Belton, to H—— F——r's, a young man who did once run well; but now said, "He saw the Devil in every corner of the church, and in the face of every one who had been there." But he was easily brought to a better mind. I preached under a shady oak, on, "The Son of Man hath power upon earth to forgive sins." At Epworth, in the evening, I explained the story of the Pharisee and the Publican. And I believe many began in that hour to cry out, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

Thur. 10. I spoke severally with all who desired it. In the evening I explained, "Ye have not received the spirit of bondage again unto fear, but the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." I had afterwards an hour's calm conversation with Samuel Meggot and James Herbury. What good did God do by these for a time! O let not their latter end be worse than the first!

Fri. 11. I visited the sick, and those who desired, but were not able, to come to me. At six I preached at Overthorp, near Haxey, (a little village about two miles from Epworth,) on that comfortable Scripture, "When they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both." I

preached at Epworth about eight on Ezekiel's vision of the resurrection of the dry bones. And great indeed was the shaking among them; lamentation and great mourning were heard; God bowing their hearts, so that on every side, as with one accord, they lift up their voice and wept aloud. Surely He who sent his Spirit to breathe upon them, will hear their cry and will help them.

Sat. 12. I preached on the righteousness of the law, and the righteousness of faith. While I was speaking, several dropped down as dead; and among the rest, such a cry was heard, of sinners groaning for the righteousness of faith, as almost drowned my voice. But many of these soon lifted up their heads with joy, and broke out into thanksgiving; being assured they now had the desire of their soul, the forgiveness of their sins.

I observed a gentleman there, who was remarkable for not pretending to be of any religion at all. I was informed he had not been at public worship, of any kind, for upwards of thirty years. Seeing him stand as motionless as a statue, I asked him abruptly, "Sir, are you a sinner?" He replied, with a deep and broken voice, "Sinner enough," and continued staring upwards, till his wife and a servant or two, who were all in tears, put him into his chaise and carried him home.

Sun. 13. At seven I preached at Haxey, on, "What must I do to be saved?" Thence I went to Wroote, of which (as well as Epworth) my father was Rector for several years. Mr. Whitelamb offering me the church, I preached, in the morning, on, "Ask, and it shall be given you:" in the afternoon, on the difference between "the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith:" but the church could not contain the people, many of whom came from far; and, I trust, not in vain.

At six I preached, for the last time, in Epworth churchyard, (being to leave the town the next morning,) to a vast multitude, gathered together from all parts, on the beginning of our Lord's Sermon on the Mount. I continued among them for near three hours; and yet we scarce knew how to part. O let none think his labour of love is lost, because the fruit does not immediately appear! Near forty years did my father labour here; but he saw little fruit of all his labour. I took some pains among his people too; and my strength also seemed spent in vain. But now the fruit appeared: there were scarce

any in the town, on whom either my father or I had taken any pains formerly, but the seed sown so long since now sprung up, bringing forth repentance and remission of sins.

Mon. 14. Having a great desire to see David Taylor, whom God had made an instrument of good to many souls, I rode to Sheffield; but not finding him there, I was minded to go forward immediately. However, the importunity of the people constrained me to stay, and preach both in the evening and in the morning.

Tues. 15. He came. I found he had occasionally exhorted multitudes of people, in various parts; but, after that, he had taken no thought about them; so that the greater part were fallen asleep again. In the evening I preached on, the inward kingdom of God.

Wed. 16. I preached, in the morning, on, the spirit of fear and the spirit of adoption. It was now first I felt that God was here also; though not so much as at Barley-Hall, (five miles from Sheffield,) where I preached in the afternoon. Many were here melted down, and filled with love toward Him, whom "God hath exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour."

I talked with one here, who, for about six months, (from the hour that she knew the pardoning love of God,) has been all peace and love. She rejoices evermore, and prays without ceasing: God gives her whatever petitions she asks of Him, and enables her, in every thing, to give thanks. She has the witness in herself, that whatsoever she does, it is all done to the glory of God: her heart never wanders from Him, no, not for a moment, but is continually before the throne: yet whether she was sanctified throughout or not, I had not light to determine.

Thur. 17. I began preaching, about five, on, "The righteousness of faith;" but I had not half finished my discourse, when I was constrained to break off in the midst; our hearts were so filled with a sense of the love of God, and our mouths with prayer and thanksgiving! When we were somewhat satisfied herewith, I went on to call sinners to the salvation ready to be revealed.

The same blessing from God we found in the evening, while I was showing how he justifies the ungodly. Among the hearers was one, who some time before had been deeply convinced of her ungodliness; insomuch that she cried out, day and night, "Lord, save, or I perish." All

the neighbours agreeing that she was stark mad, her husband put her into a Physician's hands, who blooded her largely, gave her a strong vomit, and laid on several blisters. But all this proving without success, she was, in a short time, judged to be incurable. He thought, however, he would speak to one person more, who had done much good in the neighbourhood. When Mrs. Johnson came, she soon saw the nature of the disease, having herself gone through the same. She ordered all the medicines to be thrown away, and exhorted the patient "to look unto Jesus;" which, this evening, she was enabled to do by faith: and He healed the broken in heart.

Fri. 18. I left Sheffield, and after preaching at Ripley, by the way, hastened on to Donnington-Park. But Miss Cowper, I found, was gone to rest, having finished her course near three weeks before.

Sun. 20. I read prayers at Ogbrook, and preached on, (Acts xvii. 27,) "Whom ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." At six in the evening, I preached at Melbourn: there were many hearers; but I see little fruit.

Tues. 22. I had a long conversation with Mr. Simpson; and of this I am fully persuaded, that whatever he does, is in the uprightness of his heart: but he is led into a thousand mistakes by one wrong principle, (the same which many either ignorantly or wickedly ascribe to the body of the people called Methodists,) the making inward impressions his rule of action, and not the written word.

About eight I left Donnington-Park, and before noon came to Markfield; we lay at Coventry, and the next day, Wednesday, 23d, in the afternoon, came to Evesham. At eight, I preached: there were many who came with a design to disturb the rest; but they opened not their mouth.

Thur. 24. I spent great part of the day in speaking with the Members of the Society; whom, in the evening, I earnestly besought, no more to tear each other to pieces by disputing, but to "follow after holiness, and provoke one another to love and to good works."

Fri. 25. I rode to Painswick; where, in the evening, I declared to all those, who had been fighting and troubling one another, from the beginning hitherto, about rites and ceremonies, and modes of worship and opinions, "The

kingdom of God is not meat and drink ; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Sat. 26. I was desired to call upon Mr. Walker, "the pillar of the church" in these parts. As soon as I came in, he fell upon me with might and main, for saying, "People might know their sins were forgiven," and brought a great book to confute me at once. I asked, if it was the Bible? and upon his answering, "No," inquired no farther, but laid it quietly down. This made him warmer still : upon which I held it best to shake him by the hand and take my leave.

I had appointed to preach in Stroud at noon ; but about ten, observing it to rain faster and faster, was afraid the poor people would not be able to come, many of whom lived some miles off ; but in a quarter of an hour the rain ceased, and we had a fair pleasant day ; so that many were at the Market-place, while I applied the story of the Pharisee and Publican ; the hard rain in the morning having disengaged them from their work in the grounds. There would probably have been more disturbance, but that a drunken man began too soon, and was so senselessly impertinent, that even his comrades were quite ashamed of him.

In the evening I preached on Hampton-Common. Many of Mr. Whitefield's Society were there ; to whom, as well as to all the other sinners, (without meddling with any of their opinions,) I declared, in the name of the great Physician, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely."

Sun. 27. I preached in Painswick, at seven, on, the spirit of fear and the spirit of adoption. I went to church at ten, and heard a remarkable discourse, asserting, "that we are justified by faith alone ; but that this faith, which is the previous condition of justification, is the complex of all Christian virtues, including all holiness and good works, in the very idea of it."

Alas ! how little is the difference between asserting, either, 1. That we are justified by works, which is Popery barefaced ; (and indeed so gross that the sober Papists, those of the Council of Trent in particular, are ashamed of it ;) or, 2. That we are justified by faith and works ; which is Popery refined or veiled ; (but with so thin a veil, that every attentive observer must discern it is the same still ;) or, 3. That we are justified by faith alone, but by such a

faith as includes all good works. What a poor shift is this! "I will not say, we are justified by works; nor yet by faith and works; because I have subscribed articles and homilies, which maintain just the contrary. No; I say, we are justified by faith alone; but then, by faith, I mean works!"

When the afternoon service was ended, at Runwick, I stood and cried to a vast multitude of people, "Unto him that worketh not, but believeth, his faith is counted for righteousness." I concluded the day on Hampton-Common, by explaining, to a large congregation, the essential difference between the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith.

Mon. 28. I rode to Bristol. I soon found disputing had done much mischief here also. I preached on those words: "From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?" Many were cut to the heart. A cry went forth; and great was the company of the mourners: but God did not leave them comfortless: some knew in the same hour, that he had the words of eternal life.

Tues. 29. I was desired to visit one in Newgate. As I was coming out, poor Benjamin Rutter stood in my way, and poured out such a flood of cursing and bitterness, as I scarce thought was to be found out of hell.

From Thursday, July 1, till Monday, I endeavoured to compose the little differences which had arisen. On Monday I rode to Cardiff, and found much peace and love in the little Society there.

Tues. 6. I rode over to Fonmon, and found Mrs. Jones, thoroughly resigned to God; although feeling what it was to lose an husband, and such an husband, in the strength of his years!

Wed. 7. I returned, and at five in the afternoon, preached to a small attentive congregation near Henbury; before eight I reached Bristol, and had a comfortable meeting with many who knew in whom they had believed. Now, at length, I spent a week in peace, all disputes being laid aside.

Thur. 15. I was desired to meet one who was ill of a very uncommon disorder. She said, "For several years I have heard, wherever I am, a voice continually speaking to me, cursing, swearing and blaspheming in the most

horrid manner, and inciting me to all manner of wickedness. I have applied to physicians, and taken all sorts of medicines, but am never the better :” no, nor ever will, till a better Physician than these bruises Satan under her feet.

I left Bristol in the evening of Sunday, 18th, and, on Tuesday, came to London. I found my mother on the borders of eternity; but she had no doubt or fear, nor any desire, but (as soon as God should call) “to depart and to be with Christ.”

Fri. 13. About three in the afternoon, I went to my mother, and found her change was near. I sat down on the bed-side. She was in her last conflict; unable to speak, but I believe quite sensible : her look was calm and serene, and her eyes fixed upward, while we commended her soul to God. From three to four, the silver cord was loosing, and the wheel breaking at the cistern; and then, without any struggle, or sigh, or groan, the soul was set at liberty. We stood round the bed, and fulfilled her last request, uttered a little before she lost her speech : “Children, as soon as I am released, sing a psalm of praise to God.”

Sun. Aug. 1. Almost an innumerable company of people being gathered together, about five in the afternoon, I committed to the earth the body of my mother, to sleep with her fathers. The portion of Scripture, from which I afterwards spoke, was, “I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened : and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” It was one of the most solemn assemblies I ever saw, or expect to see on this side eternity.

We set up a plain stone at the head of her grave, inscribed with the following words :—

“Here lies the body of Mrs. Susannah Wesley, the youngest and last surviving daughter of Dr. Samuel Annesley.”

“ In sure and steadfast hope to rise,
And claim her mansion in the skies,
A Christian here her flesh laid down,
The cross exchanging for a crown.

True daughter of affliction, she,
Inur'd pain and misery,

Mourn'd a long night of griefs and fears;
A legal night of seventy years.

The Father then reveal'd his Son,
Him in the broken bread made known.
She knew and felt her sins forgiven,
And found the earnest of her heaven.

Meet for the fellowship above,
She heard the call, 'Arise, my love:'
'I come,' her dying looks replied,
And lamb-like, as her Lord, she died.'

I cannot but further observe, that even she (as well as her father and grandfather, her husband, and her three sons) had been, in her measure and degree, a preacher of righteousness. This I learned from a letter, wrote long since to my father; part of which I have here subjoined.

Feb. 6, 1711-12.

—— As I am a woman, so I am also mistress of a large family; and though the superior charge of the souls contained in it lies upon you; yet, in your absence, I cannot but look upon every soul you leave under my care, as a talent committed to me under a trust, by the great Lord of all the families, both of heaven and earth; and if I am unfaithful to him or you, in neglecting to improve these talents, how shall I answer unto Him, when he shall command me to render an account of my stewardship?

As these and other such like thoughts made me at first take a more than ordinary care of the souls of my children and servants, so knowing our religion requires a strict observation of the Lord's day, and not thinking that we fully answered the end of the institution by going to church, unless we filled up the intermediate spaces of time by other acts of piety and devotion, I thought it my duty to spend some part of the day in reading to and instructing my family: and such time I esteemed spent in a way more acceptable to God, than if I had retired to my own private devotions.

This was the beginning of my present practice; other people's coming and joining with us was merely accidental. Our lad told his parents: they first desired to be admitted; then others that heard of it, begged leave also: so our company increased to about thirty; and it seldom exceeded forty last winter.

But soon after you went to London last, I light on the account of the Danish Missionaries. I was, I think, never more affected with any thing; I could not forbear spending good part of that evening in praising and adoring the divine goodness, for inspiring them with such ardent zeal for his glory. For several days I could think or speak of little else; at last it came into my mind, though I am not a man nor a Minister, yet, if my heart were sincerely devoted to God, and I was inspired with a true zeal for his glory, I might do somewhat more than I do: I thought I might pray more for them, and might speak to those with whom I converse with more warmth of affection. I resolved to begin with my own children; in which I observe the following method:—I take such a proportion of time as I can spare, every night, to discourse with each child apart. On Monday I talk with Molly; on Tuesday, with Hetty; Wednesday, with Nancy; Thursday, with Jacky; Friday, with Patty; Saturday, with Charles; and with Emily and Suky together, on Sunday.

“With those few neighbours that then came to me, I discoursed more freely and affectionately. I chose the best and most awakening sermons we have; and I spent somewhat more time with them in such exercises, without being careful about the success of my undertaking. Since this, our company increased every night; for I dare deny none that ask admittance.

“Last Sunday I believe we had above two hundred; and yet many went away, for want of room to stand.

“We banish all temporal concerns from our Society; none is suffered to mingle any discourse about them with our reading or singing. We keep close to the business of the day, and when it is over all go home.

“I cannot conceive, why any should reflect upon you, because your wife endeavours to draw people to church, and to restrain them from profaning the Lord's Day, by reading to them, and other persuasions. For my part, I value no censure upon this account. I have long since shook hands with the world; and I heartily wish I had never given them more reason to speak against me.

“As to its looking particular, I grant it does. And so does almost any thing that is serious, or that may any way advance the glory of God, or the salvation of souls.—

“As for your proposal, of letting some other person read; alas! you do not consider what a people these are.

388 . Rev. John Wesley's Journal

I do not think one man among them could read a sermon, without spelling a good part of it. Nor has any of our family a voice strong enough to be heard by such a number of people.—

“But there is one thing about which I am much dissatisfied; that is, their being present at family prayers. I do not speak of any concern I am under, barely because so many are present. For those who have the honour of speaking to the Great and Holy God, need not be ashamed to speak before the whole world; but because of my sex. I doubt if it is proper for me to present the prayers of the people to God. Last Sunday I would fain have dismissed them before prayers; but they begged so earnestly to stay, I durst not deny them.”

“To the Rev. Mr. Wesley, in St. Margaret's Church-yard, Westminster.”

For the benefit of those who are entrusted, as she was, with the care of a numerous family. I cannot but add one letter more, which I received from her many years ago.

“DEAR SON,

July 24, 1732.

“According to your desire, I have collected the principal rules I observed in educating my family; which I now send you as they occurred to my mind, and you may (if you think they can be of use to any) dispose of them in what order you please.

“The children were always put into a regular method of living, in such things as they were capable of, from their birth; as in dressing, undressing, changing their linen, &c. The first quarter commonly passes in sleep. After that, they were, if possible, laid into their cradles awake, and rocked to sleep; and so they were kept rocking, till it was time for them to awake. This was done to bring them to a regular course of sleeping; which at first was three hours in the morning, and three in the afternoon; afterwards two hours, till they needed none at all.

“When turned a year old, (and some before,) they were taught to fear the rod, and to cry softly; by which means they escaped abundance of correction they might otherwise have had; and that most odious noise of the crying of children was rarely heard in the house; but the family usually lived in as much quietness as if there had not been a child among them.

"As soon as they were grown pretty strong, they were confined to three meals a day. At dinner their little table and chairs were set by ours, where they could be overlooked; and they were suffered to eat and drink (small beer) as much as they would, but not to call for any thing. If they wanted aught, they used to whisper to the maid which attended them, who came and spake to me; and as soon as they could handle a knife and fork, they were set to our table. They were never suffered to choose their meat, but always made to eat such things as were provided for the family.

"Mornings they had always spoon-meat; sometimes at nights. But whatever they had, they were never permitted to eat, at those meals, of more than one thing, and of that sparingly enough. Drinking or eating between meals was never allowed, unless in case of sickness, which seldom happened. Nor were they suffered to go into the kitchen to ask any thing of the servants, when they were at meat: if it was known they did, they were certainly beat, and the servants severely reprimanded.

"At six, as soon as family-prayer was over, they had their supper; at seven, the maid washed them; and, beginning at the youngest, she undressed and got them all to bed by eight: at which time she left them in their several rooms awake; for there was no such thing allowed of in our house, as sitting by a child till it fell asleep.

"They were so constantly used to eat and drink what was given them, that when any of them was ill, there was no difficulty in making them take the most unpleasant medicine; for they durst not refuse it, though some of them would presently throw it up. This I mention to show, that a person may be taught to take any thing, though it be never so much against his stomach.

"In order to form the minds of children, the first thing to be done is to conquer their will, and bring them to an obedient temper. To inform the understanding is a work of time, and must, with children, proceed by slow degrees, as they are able to bear it; but the subjecting the will, is a thing which must be done at once; and the sooner the better. For by neglecting timely correction, they contract a stubbornness, and obstinacy, which is hardly ever conquered; and never without using such severity as would be as painful to me as to the child. In the esteem of the

world they pass for kind and indulgent, whom I call cruel parents, who permit their children to get habits, which they know must be afterwards broken. Nay, some are so stupidly fond, as in sport to teach their children to do things, which in a while after they have severely beaten them for doing. When a child is corrected it must be conquered, and this will be no hard matter to do, if it be not grown headstrong by too much indulgence. And when the will of a child is totally subdued, and it is brought to revere and stand in awe of the parents, then a great many childish follies and inadvertencies may be passed by. Some should be overlooked and taken no notice of, and others mildly reprov'd; but no wilful transgression ought ever to be forgiven children, without chastisement, less or more, as the nature and circumstances of the offence require.

"I insist upon conquering the will of children betimes, because this is the only strong and rational foundation of a religious education; without which both precept and example will be ineffectual. But when this is thoroughly done, then a child is capable of being governed by the reason and piety of its parents, till its own understanding comes to maturity, and the principles of religion have taken root in the mind.

"I cannot yet dismiss this subject. As self-will is the root of all sin and misery, so whatever cherishes this in children, ensures their after-wretchedness and irreligion: whatever checks and mortifies it, promotes their future happiness and piety. This is still more evident, if we farther consider, that religion is nothing else than the doing the will of God, and not our own; that the one grand impediment to our temporal and eternal happiness being this self-will, no indulgence of it can be trivial, no denial unprofitable. Heaven or hell depends on this alone. So that the parent who studies to subdue it in his child, works together with God in the renewing and saving a soul; the parent who indulges it does the Devil's work, makes religion impracticable, salvation unattainable, and does all that in him lies to damn his child, soul and body, for ever.

"The children of this family were taught, as soon as they could speak, the Lord's Prayer, which they were made to say at rising and bed-time constantly; to which, as they grew bigger, were added a short prayer

for their parents, and some collects, a short catechism, and some portion of Scripture, as their memories could bear.

"They were very early made to distinguish the Sabbath from other days, before they could well speak or go. They were as soon taught to be still at family prayers, and to ask a blessing immediately after, which they used to do by signs, before they could kneel or speak.

"They were quickly made to understand, they might have nothing they cried for, and instructed to speak handsomely for what they wanted. They were not suffered to ask even the lowest servant for aught, without saying, 'Pray give me such a thing;' and the servant was chid, if she ever let them omit that word. Taking God's name in vain, cursing and swearing, profaneness, obscenity, rude, ill-bred names, were never heard among them. Nor were they ever permitted to call each other by their proper names, without the addition of brother or sister.

"None of them were taught to read till five years old, except Kezzy, in whose case I was over-ruled; and she was more years learning, than any of the rest had been months. The way of teaching was this: The day before a child began to learn, the house was set in order, every one's work appointed them, and a charge given that none should come into the room from nine till twelve, or from two till five, which, you know, were our school-hours. One day was allowed the child wherein to learn its letters, and each of them did in that time know all its letters, great and small, except Molly and Nancy, who were a day and a half before they knew them perfectly: for which I then thought them very dull; but since I have observed how long many children are learning the horn-book, I have changed my opinion. But the reason why I thought them so then was, because the rest learned so readily; and your brother Samuel, who was the first child I ever taught, learnt the alphabet in a few hours. He was five years old on the 10th of February; the next day he began to learn, and as soon as he knew the letters, began at the first chapter of Genesis. He was taught to spell the first verse, then to read it over and over, till he could read it off hand without any hesitation; so on to the second, &c.; (till he took ten verses for a lesson, which he quickly did.) Easter fell low that year, and by Whitsuntide he could read a chapter very well; for he read continually, and had

such a prodigious memory, that I cannot remember ever to have told him the same word twice.

"What was yet stranger, any word he had learned in his lesson, he knew wherever he saw it, either in his Bible, or any other book, by which means he learned very soon to read an English author well.

"The same method was observed with them all. As soon as they knew the letters, they were put first to spell, and read one line, then a verse; never leaving till perfect in their lesson, were it shorter or longer. So one or other continued reading at school-time, without any intermission: and before we left school each child read what he had learned that morning; and ere we parted in the afternoon, what they had learned that day.

"There was no such thing as loud talking or playing allowed of; but every one was kept close to their business for the six hours of school. And it is almost incredible, what a child may be taught in a quarter of a year, by a vigorous application, if it have but a tolerable capacity, and good health. Every one of these, Kezzy excepted, could read better in that time, than the most of women can do as long as they live.

"Rising out of their places, or going out of the room, was not permitted unless for good cause; and running into the yard, garden, or street, without leave, was always esteemed a capital offence.

"For some years we went on very well. Never were children in better order; never were children better disposed to piety, or in more subjection to their parents; till that fatal dispersion of them after the fire into several families. In those they were left at full liberty to converse with servants, which before they had always been restrained from, and to run abroad and play with any children, good or bad. They soon learned to neglect a strict observation of the Sabbath, and got knowledge of several songs and bad things, which before they had no notion of. That civil behaviour which made them admired when at home, by all who saw them, was in great measure lost, and a clownish accent, and many rude ways were learned, which were not reformed without some difficulty.

"When the house was rebuilt, and the children all brought home, we entered upon a strict reform; and then was begun the custom of singing psalms at beginning and leaving school, morning and evening. Then also that

of a general retirement at five o'clock was entered upon, when the oldest took the youngest that could speak, and the second the next, to whom they read the Psalms for the day, and a chapter in the New Testament; as in the morning they were directed to read the Psalms and a chapter in the Old, after which they went to their private prayers, before they got their breakfast, or came into the family. And, I thank God, the custom is still preserved among us.

"There were several by-laws observed among us, which slipped my memory, or else they had been inserted in their proper place; but I mention them here, because I think them useful.

"1. It had been observed, that cowardice and fear of punishment, often lead children into lying, till they get a custom of it, which they cannot leave. To prevent this, a law was made, That whoever was charged with a fault of which they were guilty, if they would ingenuously confess it, and promise to amend, should not be beaten. This rule prevented a great deal of lying, and would have done more, if one in the family would have observed it. But he could not be prevailed on, and therefore was often imposed on by false colours and equivocations, which none would have used (except one) had they been kindly dealt with: and some in spite of all would always speak truth plainly.

"2. That no sinful action, as lying, playing at church, or on the Lord's day, disobedience, quarrelling, &c., should ever pass unpunished.

"3. That no child should ever be chid, or beat twice for the same fault; and that if they amended, they should never be upbraided with it afterwards.

"4. That every signal act of obedience, especially when it crossed upon their own inclinations, should be always commended, and frequently rewarded, according to the merits of the cause.

"5. That if ever any child performed an act of obedience, or did any thing with an intention to please, though the performance was not well, yet the obedience and intention should be kindly accepted, and the child with sweetness directed how to do better for the future.

"6. That property be inviolably preserved, and none suffered to invade the property of another in the smallest matter, though it were but of the value of a farthing, or

a pin; which they might not take from the owner without, much less against, his consent. This rule can never be too much inculcated on the minds of children; and from the want of Parents or Governors doing it as they ought, proceeds that shameful neglect of justice, which we may observe in the world.

"7. That promises be strictly observed; and a gift once bestowed, and so the right passed away from the donor, be not resumed, but left to the disposal of him to whom it was given; unless it were conditional, and the condition of the obligation not performed.

"8. That no girl be taught to work till she can read very well; and then that she be kept to her work with the same application, and for the same time, that she was held to in reading. This rule also is much to be observed; for the putting children to learn sewing before they can read perfectly, is the very reason why so few women can read fit to be heard, and never to be well understood."

Sun. 8. I cried aloud, in Radcliff-Square, "Why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Only one poor man was exceedingly noisy and turbulent; but in a moment God touched his heart: he hung down his head; tears covered his face, and his voice was heard no more.

I was constrained this evening to separate from the believers, some who did not "show their faith by their works." One of these, Sam. Prig, was deeply displeased, spoke many very bitter words, and went abruptly away. The next morning he called; told me, "Neither my brother nor I preached the Gospel, or knew what it meant." I asked, "What do we preach then?" He said, "Heathen morality: Tully's offices, and no more. So I wash my hands of you both. We shall see what you will come to in a little time."

Wed. 11. He sent me a note, demanding the payment of one hundred pounds, which he had lent me about a year before, to pay the workmen at the Foundry. On Friday morning, at eight, he came and said, "He wanted his money, and could stay no longer." I told him, "I would endeavour to borrow it," and desired him to call in the evening; but he said, "He could not stay so long, and must have it at twelve o'clock." Where to get it I knew not: between nine and ten, one came and offered me the use of an hundred pounds for a year; but two

others had been with me before, to make the same offer. I accepted the bank note which one of them brought; and saw that God is over all!

Mon. 16. I rode to Oxford, and the next day to Evesham. On Wednesday and Thursday, in riding from Evesham to Bristol, I read over that surprising book, the Life of Ignatius Loyola; surely one of the greatest men that ever was engaged in the support of so bad a cause! I wonder any man should judge him to be an enthusiast: no; but he knew the people with whom he had to do: and setting out (like Count Z——) with a full persuasion that he might use guile to promote the glory of God, or (which he thought the same thing) the interest of his Church, he acted in all things consistent with his principles.

In the evening I met my brother and Mr. Graves, who, being able to delay it no longer, at length sent the following letter to the Fellows of St. Mary Magdalen College, in Oxford:—

“GENTLEMEN,

Bristol, Aug. 20, 1742.

“In December, 1740, I signed a paper containing the following words: ‘I, Charles Caspar Graves, do hereby declare, that I do renounce the modern practice and principles of the persons commonly called Methodists, namely, of preaching in fields, of assembling together and expounding the Holy Scriptures in private houses, and elsewhere than in churches, in an irregular manner; and their pretensions to an extraordinary inspiration and inward feeling of the Holy Spirit.

“‘I do farther declare my conformity to the Liturgy of the Church of England, and my unfeigned assent and consent to the Articles thereof, commonly called the Thirty-nine Articles.

“‘Lastly, I do declare, that I am heartily sorry that I have given offence and scandal by frequenting the meetings, and attending the expositions, of the persons commonly called Methodists; and that I will not frequent their meetings, nor attend their expositions for the future; nor take upon me to preach and expound the Scripture in the manner practised by them.

“‘CHARLES CASPAR GRAVES.’

“I believe myself indispensably obliged openly to declare before God and the world, that the motives whereby I

was induced to sign that paper were, partly a sinful fear of man; partly an improper deference to the judgment of those whom I accounted wiser than myself; and, lastly, a resolution that, if my own judgment should at any time be better informed, I would then openly retract, in the presence of God and man, whatever I should be convinced I had said or done amiss.

"Accordingly, having now had (besides a strong conviction immediately consequent thereon) many opportunities of informing my judgment better, and being fully convinced of my fault, I do hereby declare my sincere repentance for my wicked compliance with those oppressive men, who, without any colour of law, divine or human, imposed such a condition of receiving a testimonial upon me.

"I do farther declare, that I know no principles of the Methodists (so called) which are contrary to the word of God; nor any practices of them but what are agreeable both to Scripture and to the laws of the Church of England: that I believe, in particular, their preaching the Gospel in the fields, (being first forbid so to do in churches, although 'a dispensation of the Gospel is committed to them, and woe unto them if they preach not the Gospel,') or in private houses, or in any part of His dominion who filleth heaven and earth, can never be proved to be contrary to any written law either of God or man: that I am not apprized of their preaching any where in an irregular, disorderly manner; neither of their pretending to any extraordinary inspiration, or extraordinary feelings of the Holy Spirit; but to those ordinary ones only, which, if a man have not, he is 'without hope and without God in the world.'

"I do yet farther declare, that (whatever indiscretion I may in other respects have been guilty of) I know of no just offence or scandal which I ever gave, by frequenting the meetings, or attending the expositions of the persons commonly called Methodists; and that I verily believe no offence was ever taken thereat, unless either by persons loaded with prejudice, or by those who enter not into the kingdom of heaven themselves, and if others would enter in, suffer them not.

"I do, lastly, declare, that I look upon myself to be under no kind of obligation (except only, that I do still assent and consent to the Articles and Liturgy of the

Church,) to observe any thing contained in that scandalous paper, so unchristianly imposed upon me.

"Witness my hand,

"CHARLES CASPAR GRAVES."

After having regulated the Society here and in Kingswood, I set out again for London. On Monday, 30, I read over that excellent tract, Mr. Middleton's Essay on Church Government, so nicely avoiding the two extremes of either exalting or depressing the regal power.

Tues. 31. I read once more the Life of that good and wise (though much mistaken) man, Gregory Lopez. Surely it must be a compliment made him by the biographer, (of which Gregory himself was in no wise worthy,) that "he ascribed all his virtues to the merits and mediation of the queen of heaven."

We reached London in the afternoon. Friday, Sept. 3, I preached on Phil. i. 9: "This I pray, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment:" or, rather, "feeling," as it is in the margin. It pleased God to make this discourse an occasion of discovering such wiles of Satan as it never entered into my heart to conceive.

Sat. 3. I was pressed to visit a poor murderer in Newgate, who was much afflicted both in body and soul. I objected; "It could not be; for all the turnkeys, as well as the keeper, were so good Christians they abhorred the name of a Methodist, and had absolutely refused to admit me even to one who earnestly begged it the morning he was to die." However, I went; and found, by a surprising turn, that all the doors were now open to me. I exhorted the sick malefactor to cry unto God with all his might for grace to repent and believe the Gospel. It was not long before the rest of the felons flocked round, to whom I spoke strong words concerning the Friend of sinners, which they received with as great signs of amazement as if it had been a voice from heaven. When I came down into the common hall, (I think they called it,) one of the prisoners there asking me a question, gave me occasion to speak among them also; more and more still running together, while I declared, God was not willing any of them should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Mon. 6. Finding many had been offended at the sermon

I preached on Friday night, especially those who were supposed to be strong in faith, I determined to examine the matter thoroughly. Accordingly I desired M. C—, M. F—, E. H—, and A. G—, and a few others, to meet me with Sarah C—l, Jane J—n, and Ann P—, to whom they had said most concerning the point in question. I then heard each of them relate her experience at large. I afterwards examined them severally, touching the circumstances which I had not understood; on which I then talked with several others also. And thus far I approved of their experience, (because agreeable to the written word,) as to their feeling the working of the Spirit of God, in peace, and joy, and love. But, as to what some of them said farther concerning “feeling the blood of Christ running upon their arms, or going down their throat, or poured like warm water upon their breast or heart,” I plainly told them, “The utmost I could allow, without renouncing both Scripture and reason, was, that some of these circumstances might be from God, (though I could not affirm they were,) working in an unusual manner, no way essential either to justification or sanctification; but that all the rest I must believe to be the mere empty dreams of an heated imagination.”

Wed. 8. I observed, that the leaven of stillness is not yet purged out from among us. One of our brethren saying, “He was uneasy, because he had wilfully neglected the Lord’s Supper:” another replied, “Then his faith was weak; else his peace could not be shaken by such little things.” Yea, but I think such little things as these will shake the peace of any true believer; viz. A wilful breach of any commandment of God. If it does not shake us, we are asleep in the Devil’s arms.

Thur. 9. I buried the body of Lucy Godshall, one of the first women bands at Fetter-Lane. After pressing toward the mark for more than two years, since she had known the pardoning love of God, she was for some time weary and faint in her mind, till I put her out of the Bands. God blessed this greatly to her soul, so that in a short time she was admitted again. Soon after, being at home, she felt the love of God in an unusual manner poured into her heart. She fell down upon her knees, and delivered up her soul and body into the hands of God. In the instant, the use of all her limbs was taken away, and she was in a burning fever. For three days

she mightily praised God, and rejoiced in Him all the day long. She then cried out, "Now Satan hath desired to have me, that he may sift me as wheat." Immediately darkness and heaviness fell upon her, which continued till Saturday, the 4th instant. On Sunday, the light shone again upon her heart. About ten in the evening, one said to her, "Jesus is ready to receive your soul." She said, "Amen! Amen!" closed her eyes, and died.

Sun. 12. I was desired to preach in an open place, commonly called the Great Gardens, lying between White-chapel and Coverlet's-fields, where I found a vast multitude gathered together. Taking knowledge, that a great part of them were little acquainted with the things of God, I called upon them in the words of our Lord, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel." Many of the beasts of the people laboured much to disturb those who were of a better mind. They endeavoured to drive in a herd of cows among them; but the brutes were wiser than their masters. They then threw whole showers of stones, one of which struck me just between the eyes; but I felt no pain at all; and when I had wiped away the blood, went on testifying with a loud voice, that God hath given to them that believe, "not the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and of a sound mind." And by the spirit which now appeared through the whole congregation, I plainly saw what a blessing it is when it is given us, even in the lowest degree, to suffer for his name's sake.

Mon. 13. I preached about nine at Windsor, and the next evening came to Bristol. I spent the remainder of this and the following week in examining those of the Society; speaking severally to each, that I might more perfectly know the state of their souls to Godward.

Thur. 23. In the evening, almost as soon as I began to pray in the Society, a voice of lamentation and bitter mourning was heard from the whole congregation; but in a while loud thanksgivings were mixed therewith, which, in a short space, spread over all; so that nothing was to be heard on every side but, "Praise to God and the Lamb for ever and ever!"

Fri. 24. I had notes from nineteen persons, desiring to return God thanks. Some of them follow:—

"John Merriman, a blind man, desires to return thanks to Almighty God, for the discovery of his love to him, an old sinner."

"One desires to return God thanks for giving her a token of his love, in removing all prejudices, and giving her love to all mankind."

"Edith W—— desires to return thanks for great and unspeakable mercies, which the Lord was pleased to reveal to her heart; even telling me, I am He that blotteth out thy transgressions, and thy sins I will remember no more. And I desire that the praise of the Lord may be ever in my heart."

"Ann Simmonds desires to return hearty thanks to God for the great mercies she received last night; for she has a full assurance of her redemption in the blood of Christ."

"Mary K—— desires to return thanks to God for giving her a fresh sense of her forgiveness."

"Mary F—— desires to return thanks for that the Lord hath made her triumph over sin, earth, and hell."

"Mary W——n desires to return thanks to Almighty God for a fresh sense of forgiveness."

"Sir,—I desire to return humble thanks to Almighty God for the comfortable assurance of his pardoning love.
E. C——."

Many others took an opportunity of speaking to me, and declaring what God had done for their souls. But one came to me, Mrs. Sp——, who was still torn in pieces with sorrow, and doubts, and fears. Her chief fear, she said, was, "That we are all Papists." I asked her how she come to fear this, after she had heard us preach for near three years, and been more than a twelve-month in the Society! She said, "Why, it is not long since I met with a gentleman who told me he was a Roman Catholic; and when I asked him if Mr. Wesley was a Papist, he would not say yes or no; but only, Mr. W. is a very good man, and you do well to hear him. Besides, it is but two or three nights since, as I was just setting out to come to the room, Miss Gr—— met me, and said, 'My dear friend, you sha'nt go; indeed you sha'nt; you don't know what you do. I assure you Mr. W. is a Papist; and so am I: he converted me. You know how I used to pray to Saints and to the Virgin Mary. It was Mr. W. taught me when I was in the Bands: and I saw him rock the cradle on Christmas Eve: you know I scorn to tell a lie.' 'Well, but,' said I, 'how

comes it that none of the rest who are in the Bands have found this out as well as you?' 'O,' replied she, 'they are not let into the secret yet. Perhaps, if you was in the Bands, you might not hear a word of it for a year or more. O! you cannot imagine the depth of the design.' The maid at her back then fell a crying, and said, "Indeed, Madam! Miss Gr—— talks so fine! Do, Madam, mind what she says." So, between one and the other, poor Mrs. Sp—— was utterly confounded.

Perhaps I need observe no more upon this, than that the Popish Priest knew well how much it would be for the interest of his Church to have me accounted a member of it; and that Miss Gr—— had lately been raving mad; (in consequence of a fever;) that as such, she was tied down in bed; and, as soon as she was suffered to go abroad, went to Mr. Whitefield, to inquire of him whether she was not a Papist? But he quickly perceived she was only a lunatic, the nature of her disorder soon betraying itself. O that all who advance the same assertion with her had as good a plea to urge in their excuse!

Sun. 26. In the evening I rode to Marshfield. The next evening I reached Whitchurch.

Tues. 28. In the morning I preached at Great Marlow, on the Pharisee and the Publican. Many were surprised, and perhaps in some measure convinced, (but how short-lived are most of these convictions!) that it is very possible a man may be a Pharisee now;—yea, though he be not a Methodist.

A little before twelve I came to Windsor. I was soon informed that a large number of the rabble had combined together, and declared again and again, "There should be no preaching there that day." In order to make all sure, they had provided gunpowder enough, and other things some days before. But Burnham fair coming between, they agreed to go thither first, and have a little diversion there. Accordingly they went, and bestowed a few of their crackers upon their brother mob at Burnham; but these, not being Methodists, did not take it well, turned upon them, and gave them chase. They took shelter in a house. But that would not serve: for those without soon forced a way in, and seized on as many as they could find, who, upon information made, were sent to gaol. The rest ran away: so that when I came, none hindered or interrupted. In the evening I came to

London. I proposed spending a fortnight there, and then returning to Bristol.

I spent this time partly in speaking severally to all the Members of the Society, partly in making a full inquiry into those devices of Satan whereof I had scarce ever heard or read before. And I believe they were now thoroughly discovered and brought to nought. O may they never more deceive the hearts of the simple!

Mon. Oct. 11. I had designed to leave London; but Mr. Richards being taken ill, I put off my journey. He was much better on Tuesday; so I set out the next morning, and before seven in the evening reached the half-way house, four miles short of Hungerford.

I now found it was well I did not set out on Monday, in order to be at Bristol on Tuesday night, as usual; for all the travellers who went that way on Tuesday were robbed. But on Thursday the road was clear, so that I came safe to Kingswood in the afternoon, and in the evening preached at Bristol.

My chief business now was, to examine thoroughly the Society in Kingswood. This found me full employment for several days. On Wednesday 27th, having finished my work, I set out very early, and (though my horse fell lame) on Thursday evening came to London.

Fri. 29. I largely explained, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty;" namely, liberty to obey the whole will of God; to be and do whatsoever he hath commanded: in a word, to love God with all our heart, and to serve him with all our strength.

Sun. 31. Several of the Leaders desired to have an hour's conversation with me. I found they were greatly perplexed about "Want of management, ill husbandry, encouraging idleness, improper distribution of money," "being imposed upon by fair pretences," and "men who talked well, but had no grace in their hearts."—I asked, "Who those men were?" But that they could not tell. "Who encouraged idleness? When and how?" "What money had been improperly distributed? By whom, and to whom?" "In what instances I had been imposed on; (as I presumed they meant me;) and what were the particulars of that ill husbandry and mismanagement of which they complained?" They stared at one another, as men in amaze. I began to be amazed too, not being able to imagine what was the matter, till one dropped a

word, by which all came out. They had been talking with Mr. Hall, who had started so many objections against all I said or did, that they were in the utmost consternation, till the fire thus broke out, which then at once vanished away.

Wed. Nov. 3. Two of those who are called Prophets desired to speak with me. They told me, "They were sent from God, with a message to me; which was, That very shortly I should be *borned* again." One of them added, "They would stay in the house till it was done, unless I turned them out." I answered gravely, "I will not turn you out," and showed them down into the Society-room. It was tolerably cold, and they had neither meat nor drink. However there they sat from morning to evening. They then went quietly away, and I have heard nothing from them since.

Sun. 7. I concluded the Epistle to the Hebrews, that strong barrier against the too prevailing imagination, that the privileges of Christian believers are to be measured by those of the Jews. Not so: that Christians are under a better covenant, established upon better promises; that although the law made nothing perfect, made none perfect either in holiness or happiness, yet the bringing in of a better hope did, by which we now draw nigh unto God; this is the great truth continually inculcated herein, and running through this whole Epistle.

Mon. 8. I set out at four, reached Northampton that night, and the next evening, Donnington-Park. Wednesday, 10th, I rode on to Rusworth-Inn; and on Saturday, 13th, reached Newcastle.

• My brother had been here for some weeks before, and was but just returned to London. At eight, I met the wild, loving, staring Society; but not them alone, as I had designed. For we could not persuade the strangers to leave us. So that we only spent about an hour in prayer.

Sun. 14. I began preaching about five o'clock, (a thing never heard of before in these parts,) on, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." And the victorious sweetness of the grace of God was present with his word. At ten, we went to All-Saints, where were such a number of communicants as I have scarce seen but at Bristol or London. At four, I preached in the Square of the Keelman's Hospital, on, "By grace ye are

saved, through faith." It rained and hailed hard, both before and after; but there were only some scattered drops while I preached, which frightened away a few careless hearers. I met the Society at six, and exhorted all who had "set their hand to the plough," not to look back.

Mon. 15. I began at five expounding "The Acts of the Apostles." In the afternoon (and every afternoon this week) I spoke severally with the Members of the Society. On Tuesday evening I began the Epistle to the Romans. After sermon the Society met. I reproved some among them who walked disorderly; and earnestly besought them all to beware, lest, by reason of their sins, the way of truth should be evil spoken of.

Thur. 18. I could not but observe the different manner wherein God is pleased to work in different places. The grace of God flows here with a wider stream than it did at first either at Bristol or Kingswood. But it does not sink so deep as it did there. Few are thoroughly convinced of sin, and scarce any can witness that the Lamb of God has taken away their sins.

Fri. 19. I found the first witness of this good confession. Margaret H—— (O how fallen since then!) told me, that the night before her sight (an odd circumstance) and her strength were taken away at once. At the same time the love of God so overflowed her soul, that she could not speak or move.

James R—— also gave me an account to-day, that in going home the day before, he lost his sight in a moment, and was forced to catch hold of some rails for fear of falling: he continues under strong conviction, longing for the salvation of God.

Sun. 21. After preaching in the Room at five, I began preaching about eight at the Hospital: it rained all the time, but that did not disturb me or the congregation, while I explained, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins."

Tues. 23. There seemed in the evening to be a deeper work in many souls than I had observed before. Many trembled exceedingly; six or seven (both men and women) dropped down as dead. Some cried unto God out of the deep; others would have cried, but their voice was lost: And some have found that the Lord is "gracious and merciful, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin."

Thur. 25. In the evening God was pleased to wound many more who were quiet and at ease. And I could not but observe, that here the very best people, so called, were as deeply convinced as open sinners. Several of these were now constrained to roar aloud, for the disquietness of their hearts; and these generally not young, (as in most other places,) but either middle-aged, or well-stricken in years.

I never saw a work of God, in any other place, so evenly and gradually carried on. It continually rises step by step. Not so much seems to be done at any one time, as hath frequently been at Bristol or London; but something at every time. It is the same with particular souls. I saw none in that triumph of faith, which has been so common in other places. But the believers go on, calm and steady. Let God do as seemeth him good.

Fri. 26. Between twelve and one, I preached in a convenient ground at Wickham, two or three miles from Newcastle. I spoke strong rough words; but I did not perceive that any regarded what was spoken. The people indeed were exceeding quiet, and the cold kept them from falling asleep; till (before two) I left them, very well satisfied with the preacher, and with themselves.

Sun. 28. I preached both at five in the Room, and at eight in the Hospital, on, "Him hath God exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and remission of sins." We then walked over to Tanfield-Leigh: (about seven miles from Newcastle.) Here a large company of people were gathered together, from all the country round about: to whom I expounded the former part of the fifth chapter to the Romans. But so dead, senseless, unaffected a congregation, have I scarce seen except at Wickham. Whether the Gospel or Law, or English or Greek, seemed all one to them!

Yet the seed sown, even here, was not quite lost. For on Thursday morning, between four and five, John Brown, then of Tanfield-Leigh, was waked out of sleep by the voice that raiseth the dead. And ever since he has been full of love and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

At four I preached in the Hospital-Square, to the largest congregation I had seen since we left London, on, "Jesus Christ our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption."

406 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Wed. Dec. 1. We had several places offered, on which to build a Room for the Society. But none was such as we wanted. And perhaps there was a providence in our not finding any as yet; for by this means I was kept at Newcastle, whether I would or no.

Sat. 4. I was both surprised and grieved, at a genuine instance of enthusiasm. J—— B——, of Tanfield-Leigh, who had received a sense of the love of God a few days before, came riding through the town, hallooing and shouting, and driving all the people before him, telling them, "God had told him he should be a King, and should tread all his enemies under his feet." I sent him home immediately to his work, and advised him to cry day and night to God, that he might be lowly in heart, lest Satan should again get an advantage over him.

To-day a gentleman called and offered me a piece of ground. On Monday an article was drawn, wherein he agreed to put me into possession on Thursday, upon payment of thirty pounds.

Tues. 7. I was so ill in the morning, that I was obliged to send Mr. Williams to the Room. He afterwards went to Mr. Stephenson, a merchant in the town, who had a passage through the ground we intended to buy. I was willing to purchase it. Mr. Stephenson told him, "Sir, I do not want money. But if Mr. Wesley wants ground, he may have a piece of my garden, adjoining to the place you mention. I am at a word. For forty pounds he shall have sixteen yards in breadth, and thirty in length."

Wed. 8. Mr. Stephenson and I signed an article, and I took possession of the ground. But I could not fairly go back from my agreement with Mr. Riddle. So I entered on his ground at the same time. The whole is about forty yards in length; in the middle of which we determined to build the house, leaving room for a small court-yard before, and a little garden behind the building.

Sun. 12. I expounded at five the former part of the Parable of the Sower. At eight I preached in the Square, on, "I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep." The effect of what had been spoken in the morning now evidently appeared; for one could not observe any in the congregation to stir hand or foot. When the sermon was done, they divided to the right and left, none offering to go till I was passed; and

then they walked quietly and silently away, lest Satan should catch the seed out of their hearts.

Mon. 13. I removed into a lodging adjoining to the ground where we were preparing to build. But the violent frost obliged us to delay the work. I never felt so intense cold before. In a room where a constant fire was kept, though my desk was fixed within a yard of the chimney, I could not write for a quarter of an hour together, without my hands being quite benumbed.

Wed. 15. I preached at Horseley-upon-Tyne, eight (computed) miles from Newcastle: it was about two in the afternoon. The house not containing the people, we stood in the open air, in spite of the frost. I preached again in the evening, and in the morning. We then chose to walk home, having each of us caught a violent cold by riding the day before. Mine gradually wore off; but Mr. Meyrick's increased, so that on Friday he took to his bed. I advised him to bleed; but he imagined he should be well without it in a few days.

Sun. 19. I cried to all who felt themselves lost, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved;" and in the afternoon, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." At that hour one who was bitterly mourning after Christ, (Mary Emerson,) was filled with joy unspeakable.

Mon. 20. We laid the first stone of the house. Many were gathered from all parts to see it; but none scoffed or interrupted while we praised God, and prayed that He would prosper the work of our hands upon us. Three or four times in the evening I was forced to break off preaching, that we might pray and give thanks to God.

- When I came home, they told me the physician said he did not expect Mr. Meyrick would live till the morning. I went to him; but his pulse was gone: he had been speechless and senseless for some time. A few of us immediately joined in prayers; (I relate the naked fact;) before we had done, his sense and his speech returned. Now he that will account for this by natural causes, has my free leave: but I choose to say, This is the power of God!

Thur. 23. It being computed that such a house as was proposed, could not be finished under seven hundred pounds, many were positive it would never be finished at all; others, that I should not live to see it covered. I

408 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

was of another mind; nothing doubting but as it was begun for God's sake, He would provide what was needful for the finishing of it.

Sat. Dec. 25. The physician told me, "He could do no more; Mr. Meyrick could not live over the night." I went up, and found them all crying about him; his legs being cold and (as it seemed) dead already. We all kneeled down, and called upon God, with strong cries and tears. He opened his eyes and called for me: and from that hour he continued to recover his strength, till he was restored to perfect health.—I wait to hear, who will either disprove this fact or philosophically account for it.

Sun. 26. From these words, "Sing we merrily unto God our strength: make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob," I took occasion to show the usual way of keeping these days holy in honour of the birth of our Lord; namely, by an extraordinary degree of gluttony and drunkenness; by heathen, and worse than heathen, diversions; (with their constant attendants, passion and strife, cursing, swearing and blasphemy;) and by dancing and card-playing, equally conducive to the glory of God. I then described the right way of keeping a day holy to the Lord; by extraordinary prayer, public and private; by thanksgiving; by hearing, reading and meditating on his word, and by talking of all his wondrous works.

Mon. 27. I rode to Horseley. The house being too small, I was obliged again to preach in the open air; but so furious a storm have I seldom known. The wind drove upon us like a torrent; coming by turns from east, west, north, and south; the straw and thatch flew round our heads; so that one would have imagined it could not be long before the house must follow: but scarce any one stirred, much less went away, till I dismissed them with the peace of God.

Tues. 28. I preached in an open place, at Swalwell, two or three miles from Newcastle. The wind was high, and extremely sharp; but I saw none go away till I went: yet I observed none that seemed to be much convinced; only stunned, as if cut in the head.

Wed. 29. After preaching (as usual) in the Square, I took horse for Tanfield. More than once I was only not blown off my horse. However, at three I reached the Leigh, and explained, to a multitude of people, the salvation which is through faith. Afterwards I met the Society

in a large upper room, which rocked to and fro with the violence of the storm: but all was calm within, and we rejoiced together in hope of a kingdom which cannot be moved.

Thur. 30. I carefully examined those who had lately cried out in the congregation. Some of these, I found, could give no account at all, how or wherefore they had done so; only that of a sudden they dropped down they knew not how; and what they afterwards said or did they knew not: others could just remember they were in fear, but could not tell what they were in fear of. Several said they were afraid of the Devil; and this was all they knew. But a few gave a more intelligible account of the piercing sense they then had of their sins, both inward and outward, which were set in array against them round about; of the dread they were in, of the wrath of God and the punishment they had deserved, into which they seemed to be just falling, without any way to escape. One of them told me, "I was as if I was just falling down, from the highest place I had ever seen; I thought the Devil was pushing me off, and that God had forsaken me." Another said, "I felt the very fire of hell already kindled in my breast, and all my body was in as much pain as if I had been in a burning fiery furnace." What wisdom is that, which rebuketh these, "that they should hold their peace"? Nay, let such an one cry after Jesus of Nazareth, till He saith, "Thy faith hath made thee whole!"

At eleven I preached my farewell sermon in the Hospital-Square. I never saw such a congregation there before, nor did I ever speak so searchingly. I could not conclude till one; and then both men, women, and children, hung upon me, so that I knew not which way to disengage myself. After some time I got to the gate, and took horse; but even then "a muckle woman" (as one called her in great anger) kept her hold, and ran by the horse's side, through thick and thin, down to Sandgate. Jonathan Reeves rode with me. We reached Darlington that night, and Borough-bridge the next day.

What encouragement have we to speak for God! At our inn we met an ancient man, who seemed, by his conversation, never to have thought whether he had any soul or no. Before we set out, I spoke a few words, concerning his cursing and idle conversation. The man

appeared quite broken in pieces: the tears started into his eyes; and he acknowledged (with abundance of thanks to me) his own guilt and the goodness of God.

Sat. Jan. 2, 1743. Between Doncaster and Epworth, I overtook one, who immediately accosted me with so many and so impertinent questions, that I was quite amazed. In the midst of some of them, concerning my travels and my journey, I interrupted him, and asked, "Are you aware, that we are on a longer journey; that we are travelling toward eternity?" He replied instantly, "O, I find you, I find you! I know where you are. Is not your name Wesley? 'Tis pity! 'tis great pity! Why could not your father's religion serve you! Why must you have a new religion?" I was going to reply, but he cut me short, by crying out in triumph, "I am a Christian! I am a Christian! I am a Churchman! I am a Churchman! I am none of your Culamites!" as plain as he could speak; for he was so drunk he could but just keep his seat. Having then clearly won the day, or, as his phrase was, "put them all down," he began kicking his horse on both sides, and rode off as fast as he could. In the evening I reached Epworth.

Sun. 2. At five I preached on, "So is every one who is born of the Spirit." About eight I preached from my father's tomb, on Heb. viii. 11. Many, from the neighbouring towns, asked, If it would not be well, as it was Sacrament Sunday, for them to receive it? I told them, "By all means; but it would be more respectful first to ask Mr. Romley, the Curate's leave." One did so, in the name of the rest; to whom he said, "Pray tell Mr. Wesley, I shall not give him the Sacrament; for he is not fit."

How wise a God is our God! There could not have been so fit a place under heaven, where this should befall me first, as my father's house, the place of my nativity, and the very place where, "according to the strictest sect of our religion," I had so long "lived a pharisee!" It was also fit, in the highest degree, that he who repelled me from that very table, where I had myself so often distributed the bread of life, should be one who owed his all in this world to the tender love which my father had shown to his, as well as personally to himself.

Mon. 3. I rode to Birstal, where John Nelson gave a melancholy account of many that *did* run well. I told

him, "I was willing they should be with the Germans, as with us, if they did but grow in grace." He said, "But this is not the case; they grow worse instead of better: they are changed both in their tempers and lives; but not for the better at all. They now do things without scruple, which they could not do before: they are light and trifling in their behaviour; they are easy and thoughtless; having now no holy fear, no earnest care to work out their own salvation."

Wed. 5. I came wet and weary to Sheffield, and on Friday to Donnington-Park, which I left before eight the next morning, in order to go to Wednesbury, in Staffordshire. I was immediately met by a vehement shower of rain, driven full in my face by a strong wind; but in an hour the day was clear and calm. About four in the afternoon I came to Wednesbury. At seven I preached in the Town-Hall: it was filled from end to end; and all appeared to be deeply attentive, while I explained, "This is the covenant which I will make after those days, saith the Lord."

Sun. 9. The Hall was filled again at five; and I proclaimed, "The name of the Lord; the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." At eight we met in the place where my brother preached, made, as it were, for the great congregation. It is a large hollow, not half a mile from the town, capable of containing four or five thousand people. They stood in a half circle, one above another, and seemed all to receive with joy, that great truth, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

In the afternoon Mr. Eggington preached a plain useful sermon. Almost the whole congregation then went down to the place, where abundance of people were already waiting for us; so that the hollow could not contain them, but was edged round with those who came from all parts. My subject was, "By grace ye are saved, through faith." O that all who heard might experience this salvation!

Mon. 10. I preached at five, at eight, and at three. In the intervals of preaching I spoke to all who desired it. Last night twenty-nine of them were joined together; Tuesday, the 11th, about an hundred. O that none of these may "draw back to perdition!" Let these "believe unto the saving of the soul!"

412 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Wed. 12. I took my leave of them in the morning, by showing the difference between the righteousness of the law and that of faith; and in the evening, explained to a large congregation at Eversham, "So is every one that is born of the Spirit."

Thur. 13. I rode to Stratford upon Avon. I had scarce sat down, before I was informed Mrs. K—, a middle aged woman, of Shattery, half a mile from Stratford, had been for many weeks last past in a way which nobody could understand; that she had sent for a Minister, but almost as soon as he came, began roaring in so strange a manner, (her tongue at the same time hanging out of her mouth, and her face being distorted into the most terrible form,) that he cried out, "It is the Devil, doubtless! It is the Devil!" and immediately went away.

I suppose this was some unphilosophical Minister; else he would have said, "Stark mad! send her to Bedlam."

I asked, "What good do you think I can do?" One answered, "We cannot tell; but Mrs. K." (I just relate what was spoken to me, without passing any judgment upon it) "earnestly desired you might come, if you was any where near; saying, She had seen you in a dream, and should know you immediately. But the Devil said, (those were her own expressions,) I will tear thy throat out before he comes." But afterwards, (she said,) his words were, "If he does come, I will let thee be quiet; and thou shalt be as if nothing ailed thee till he is gone away."

A very odd kind of madness this! I walked over about noon; but when we came to the house, desired all those who came with me, to stay below. One showing me the way, I went up straight to her room. As soon as I came to the bedside, she fixed her eyes, and said, "You are Mr. Wesley; I am very well now, I thank God; nothing ails me; only I am weak." I called them up, and we began to sing,

"Jesu, thou hast bid us pray,
Pray always and not faint;
With the word, a power convey
To utter our complaint."

After singing a verse or two, we kneeled down to prayer. I had but just begun, (my eyes being shut,) when I felt as if I had been plunged into cold water; and immediately there was such a roar, that my voice was quite drowned,

though I spoke as loud as I usually do to three or four thousand people. However, I prayed on; she was then reared up in the bed, her whole body moving at once, without bending one joint or limb, just as if it were one piece of stone. Immediately after it was writhed into all kinds of postures; the same horrid yell continuing still. But we left her not till all the symptoms ceased, and she was (for the present at least) rejoicing and praising God.

Between one and two I preached at Stratford, on, "The Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins." Most of the hearers stood like posts; but some mocked, others blasphemed, and a few believed.

I preached at Evesham in the evening, rode to Painswick the next day, and on Saturday, 15th, to Bristol; where, the following week, I spoke to each Member of the Society, and rejoiced over them, finding they had not been "barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Mon. 24. I preached at Bath. Some of the rich and great were present; to whom, as to the rest, I declared with all plainness of speech, 1. That, by nature, they were all children of wrath; 2. That all their natural tempers were corrupt and abominable; and, 3. All their words and works,—which could never be any better but by faith; and that, 4. A natural man has no more faith than a Devil, if so much. One of them, my Lord —, stayed very patiently till I came to the middle of the fourth head; then starting up, he said, "'Tis hot! 'Tis very hot," and got down stairs as fast as he could.

Several of the gentry desired to stay, at the meeting of the Society, to whom I explained the nature of inward religion, words flowing upon me faster than I could speak. One of them (a noted infidel) hung over the next seat in an attitude not to be described; and when he went, left half-a-guinea with Mary Naylor, for the use of the poor.

On the following days I spoke with each Member of the Society in Kingswood. I cannot understand how any Minister can hope ever to give up his account with joy, unless (as Ignatius advises) he "knows all his flock by name; not overlooking the men servants and maid servants."

I left Bristol on Friday, 28th, came to Reading on Saturday, and to Windsor on Sunday morning; thence I walked over to Egham, where Mr. — preached one of

the most miserable sermons I ever heard; stuffed so full of dull, senseless, improbable lies, of those he complimented with the title of False Prophets.

I preached at one, and endeavoured to rescue the poor text (Matt. vii. 16) out of so bad hands. About four I left Egham, and at eight in the evening met with a joyful congregation at the Foundery.

Mon. 31. One writing to desire that I would preach on Isaiah lviii., I willingly complied with his request in the evening. A day or two after, I received a letter from a girl of sixteen or seventeen, whom I had often observed, as being in an eminent degree of a meek and lowly spirit. Some of her words were, "I do not think there were above six or seven words of the true Gospel in your whole sermon. I think nothing ought to concern you but the errand which the Lord gave you. But, how far are you from this? You preach more the Law than the Gospel!" Ah, my poor still sister! Thou art an apt scholar indeed! I did not expect this quite so soon.

Wed. Feb. 2. My brother and I began visiting the Society together, which employed us from six in the morning every day, till near six in the evening.

Sun. 6. I preached in the morning, on, "While we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men;" and in the afternoon, on, "By manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." So rough a charity sermon was scarce ever heard; but God gave it his blessing, insomuch that fifty pounds were contributed towards finishing the house at Newcastle.

Fri. 11. I called on poor Joseph Hodges, who after so long withstanding all the wiles of the enemy, has been at last induced by his fatal regard for Mr. Hall, to renounce my brother and me in form. But he had perfectly learned the exercise of his arms. He was so happy, so poor a sinner, that to produce either Scripture or reason against him, was mere beating of the air.

Mon. 14. I left London; and (riding early and late) the next evening came to Newark. Here I met with a few who had tasted the good word; one of whom received me gladly, and desired me whenever I came to Newark to make his house my home.

Wed. 16. I reached Epworth. I was to preach at six; but the house not being able to contain half the congrega-

tion, I went out and declared, "We love him, because he first loved us." In the morning, Thursday, 17, I largely explained, "The spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father:" and it was high time; for I soon found the spirit of delusion was gone abroad here also; and some began to boast, that Christ had made them free, who were still the servants of sin. In the evening, I preached on that bold assertion of St. John, (indeed of all who have the true spirit of adoption,) "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

Fri. 18. I rode forward for Newcastle. We inquired at Poplington, a little town three miles beyond York, and hearing that there was no other town near, thought it best to call there. A Bible lying in the window, my fellow-traveller asked the woman of the house, If she read that book? She said, "Sir, I can't read, the worse is my luck; but that great girl is a rare scholar; and yet she cares not if she ever looks in a book; she minds nought but play." I began soon after to speak to our landlord, while the old woman drew closer and closer to me. The girl spun on; but all on a sudden she stopped her wheel, burst out into tears, and, with all that were in the house, so devoured our words, that we scarce knew how to go away.

In the evening we came to Borough-bridge, and Saturday, 19th, to Newcastle.

Sun. 20. I went on in expounding the Acts of the Apostles, and St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. In the following week I diligently inquired, who they were that did not walk according to the Gospel. In consequence of which I was obliged to put away above fifty persons: there remained above eight hundred in the Society.

• Sat. 26. I visited those that were sick. One of these had kept her room for many months, so that she had never heard the voice, or seen the face, of any Preacher of *this way*: but God had taught her in the school of affliction. She gave a plain and distinct account of the manner wherein she received a sense of her acceptance with God more than a year before; and of a fuller manifestation of his love, of which she never after doubted for a moment.

Mon. 28. I preached again at Horseley, and spoke severally with those of the Society. The world now begins to take alarm, and to cast out their name as evil. After a very good woman (so called) had used abundance of arguments to hinder her neighbour from going near

416 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

these people, she told her, at length, "Why, none but the wickedest people upon earth go there." "Nay, then, (replied she,) I will go immediately; for I am sure none upon earth is wickeder than me." Such be the event of all worldly wisdom!

Tues. March 1. I preached at two in Pelton, five miles south of Newcastle. A multitude of people were gathered together from all the neighbouring towns, and (which I rejoiced at much more) from all the neighbouring pits. In riding home, I observed a little village called Chowden, which they told me consisted of colliers only. I resolved to preach there as soon as possible; for these are sinners, and need repentance.

Sun. 6. I read over, in the Society, the Rules which all our Members are to observe, and desired every one seriously to consider whether he was willing to conform thereto or no. That this would shake many of them, I knew well: and, therefore, on Monday, 7th, I began visiting the Classes again, lest "that which is lame should be turned out of the way."

Tues. 8. In the afternoon I preached on a smooth part of the fell, (or common,) near Chowden. I found we were got into the very Kingswood of the North. Twenty or thirty wild children ran round us, as soon as we came, staring as in amaze. They could not properly be said to be either clothed or naked. One of the largest, (a girl about fifteen,) had a piece of a ragged, dirty blanket, some way hung about her, and a kind of cap on her head, of the same cloth and colour. My heart was exceedingly enlarged towards them; and they looked as if they would have swallowed me up; especially while I was applying these words: "Be it known unto you, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you forgiveness of sins."

Sat. 12. I concluded my second course of visiting, in which I inquired particularly into two things:—1. The case of those who had, almost every night the last week, cried out aloud during the preaching. 2. The number of those who were separated from us, and the reason and occasion of it.

As to the former I found,

1. That all of them (I think not one excepted) were persons in perfect health, and had not been subject to fits of any kind, till they were thus affected.

2. That this had come upon every one of them in a moment, without any previous notice, while they were either hearing the word of God, or thinking on what they had heard.

3. That, in that moment, they dropped down, lost all their strength, and were seized with violent pain.

This they expressed in different manners. Some said, "They felt just as if a sword was running through them;" others, that "They thought a great weight lay upon them, as if it would squeeze them into the earth." Some said, "They were quite choked, so that they could not breathe:" others, "That it was as if their heart, as if their inside, as if their whole body, was tearing all to pieces."

These symptoms I can no more impute to any natural cause, than to the Spirit of God. I can make no doubt but it was Satan tearing them as they were coming to Christ: and hence proceeded those grievous cries whereby he might design both to discredit the work of God, and to affright fearful people from hearing that word whereby their souls might be saved.

I found, 4. That their minds had been as variously affected as their bodies. Of this some could give scarce any account at all; which, also, I impute to that wise Spirit, purposely stunning and confounding as many as he could, that they might not be able to bewray his devices. Others gave a very clear and particular account from the beginning to the end. The word of God pierced their souls, and convinced them of inward as well as outward sin. They saw and felt the wrath of God abiding on them, and were afraid of his judgments. And here the accuser came with great power, telling them, "There was no hope; they were lost for ever." The pains of body then seized them in a moment, and extorted those loud and bitter cries.

As to the latter, I observed the number of those who had left the Society, since December 30, was seventy-six:—

Fourteen of these (chiefly dissenters) said, They left it because otherwise their Ministers would not give them the Sacrament.

Nine more, Because their husbands or wives were not willing they should stay in it.

Twelve, Because their parents were not willing.

Five, Because their master and mistress would not let them come.

418. Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Seven, Because their acquaintance persuaded them to leave it.

Five, Because people said such bad things of the Society.

Nine, Because they would not be laughed at.

Three, Because they would not lose the poor's allowance.

Three more, Because they could not spare time to come.

Two, Because it was too far off.

One, Because she was afraid of falling into fits.

One, Because people were so rude in the street.

Two, Because Thomas Naisbit was in the Society.

One, Because he would not turn his back on his baptism.

One, Because we were mere Church of England men.
And,

One, Because it was time enough to serve God yet.

The number of those who were expelled the Society was sixty-four :—

Two for cursing and swearing.

Two for habitual Sabbath-breaking.

Seventeen for drunkenness.

Two for retailing spirituous liquors.

Three for quarrelling and brawling.

One for beating his wife.

Three for habitual, wilful lying.

Four for railing and evil-speaking.

One for idleness and laziness. And

Nine-and-twenty for lightness and carelessness.

Sun. 13. I went in the morning in order to speak severally with the Members of the Society at Tanfield. From the terrible instances I met with here, (and indeed in all parts of England,) I am more and more convinced that the Devil himself desires nothing more than this, that the people of any place should be half awakened, and then left to themselves to fall asleep again : therefore, I determine, by the grace of God, not to strike one stroke in any place where I cannot follow the blow.

Mon. 14. I preached again near Chowden; and this I continued to do weekly, as well as at all the other places round Newcastle, (except Swalwell,) where I had preached once.

Thur. 17. As I was preaching at Pelton, one of the old colliers, not much accustomed to things of this kind, in

the middle of the sermon began shouting amain for mere satisfaction and joy of heart: but their usual token of approbation (which somewhat surprised me at first) was clapping me on the back.

Fri. 18. As I was meeting the Leaders, a company of young men, having prepared themselves by strong drink, broke open the door, and came rushing in with the utmost fury. I began praying for them immediately. Not one opened his mouth, or lifted up a finger against us: and after half an hour we all went away together in great quietness and love.

Tues. 22. I went to Southbiddick, a village of colliers, seven miles south-east of Newcastle. The spot where I stood was just at the bottom of a semicircular hill, on the rising sides of which many hundreds stood; but far more on the plain beneath. I cried to them, in the words of the Prophet, "O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord." Deep attention sat on every face; so that here also I believed it would be well to preach weekly.

Wed. 23. I met a gentleman in the streets, cursing and swearing in so dreadful a manner that I could not but stop him. He soon grew calmer, told me, "He must treat me with a glass of wine; and that he would come and hear me; only he was afraid I should say something against fighting of cocks."

Fri. 25. At the pressing instance of a cursing, swearing, drunken Papist, who would needs bring me into a state of salvation, I spent some hours in reading an artful book, entitled, "The Grounds of the Old Religion." In the first thirty pages the author heaps up scriptures, concerning the privileges of the Church; but all this is beating the air, till he proves the Romanists to be the Church, *i.e.* That a part is the whole. In the second chapter he brings many arguments to show, "That the Scripture is not the sole rule of faith; at least, not if interpreted by private judgment; because private judgment has no place in matters of religion!" Why, at this moment you are appealing to my private judgment; and you cannot possibly avoid it. The foundation of your, as well as my religion, must necessarily rest here. First, you (as well as I) must judge for yourself, whether you are implicitly to follow the Church or no; and also which is the true Church: Else it is not possible to move one step forward.

This evening I preached in the shell of the new house, on the Rich Man and Lazarus. A great multitude were gathered together there, most of whom stayed with us, and watched unto the Lord.

Sat. 26. I preached at Burtley, a village four miles south of Newcastle, surrounded by colliers on every side. The greater part of the congregation earnestly attended to those solemn words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor."

Mon. 28. I was astonished to find it was real fact, (what I would not believe before,) that three of the dissenting Ministers (Mr. A——rs, Mr. A——ns, and Mr. B——) had agreed together "to exclude all those from the Holy Communion who would not refrain from hearing us." Mr. A——ns publicly affirmed, "We were all Papists, and our doctrine was mere Popery." And Mr. B——, in the conclusion of a course of sermons, which he preached professedly against us, went a step farther still; for, after he had confessed "many texts in the Bible are for them," he added, "But you ought not to mind those texts; for the Papists have put them in!"

Wed. 30. While I was reasoning (from the 24th chapter of the Acts) on, "Righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come," God constrained many of the stout-hearted sinners to tremble. O that they may not put him off to "a more convenient season!"

April 1. Being Good Friday, I had a great desire to visit a little village called Placey, about ten measured miles north of Newcastle. It is inhabited by colliers only; and such as had been always in the first rank for savage ignorance and wickedness of every kind. Their grand assembly used to be on the Lord's Day, on which men, women, and children met together, to dance, fight, curse, and swear, and play at chuck, ball, span-farthing, or whatever came next to hand. I felt great compassion for these poor creatures, from the time I heard of them first; and the more, because all men seemed to despair of them. Between seven and eight I set out with John Heally, my guide. The north wind being unusually high, drove the sleet in our face, which froze as it fell, and cased us over presently. When we came to Placey we could very hardly stand. As soon as we were a little recovered, I went into the Square, and declared Him who "was bruised for our

sins, and wounded for our iniquities." The poor sinners were quickly gathered together, and gave earnest heed to the things which were spoken. And so they did in the afternoon again, in spite of the wind and snow, when I besought them to receive Him for their King; to "repent and believe the Gospel."

On Easter Monday and Tuesday, I preached there again, the congregation continually increasing; and as most of these had never in their lives pretended to any religion of any kind, they were the more ready to cry to God, as mere sinners, for the free redemption which is in Jesus.

Thur. 7. Having settled all things according to my desire, I cheerfully took leave of my friends at Newcastle, and rode that day to Sandbuston. At our inn I found a good-natured man sitting and drinking in the chimney corner, with whom I began a discourse, suspecting nothing less than that he was the Minister of the parish. Before we parted I spoke exceeding plain; and he received it in love, begging he might see me when I came that way again. But before I came he was gone into eternity.

Fri. 8. I preached at Knaresborough and at Leeds, on, "By grace ye are saved, through faith." The three following days I divided between Leeds and Birstal; and on Tuesday rode to Sheffield.

I found the Society, both here and at Barley-Hall, earnestly pressing on toward the mark; although there had not been wanting here also those who, by fair speeches, deceive the hearts of the simple.

Fri. 15. I rode in two days to Wednesbury; but found things surprisingly altered here. The inexcusable folly of Mr. W——s had so provoked Mr. E——n, that his former love was turned into bitter hatred. But he had not yet had time to work up the poor people into the rage and madness which afterwards appeared; so that they were extremely quiet both this and the following days, while I improved the present opportunity, and exhorted them, morning and evening, to believe on the Lord Jesus, and to work out their salvation with fear and trembling.

Yet, on Sunday, 17, the scene began to open. I think I never heard so wicked a sermon, and delivered with such bitterness of voice and manner, as that which Mr. E—— preached in the afternoon. I knew what effect this

must have in a little time; and, therefore, judged it expedient to prepare the poor people for what was to follow, that, when it came, they might not be offended. Accordingly, on Tuesday, 19th, I strongly enforced those words of our Lord: "If any man come after me, and hate not his father and mother,—yea, and his own life, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

While I was speaking, a gentleman rode up very drunk; and, after many unseemly and bitter words, laboured much to ride over some of the people. I was surprised to hear he was a neighbouring Clergyman. And this, too, is a man zealous for the Church! Ah, poor Church, if it stood in need of such defenders!

Thur. 21. I spent an hour with some of my old friends, whom I had not seen for many years. I rejoiced to find them still loving and open of heart, just as they were before I went to Georgia. In the afternoon I called at Barkswell, near Coventry, where I had formerly spent many pleasant hours; and here, likewise, I found friendship and openness still: but the master of the house was under heavy affliction; and such affliction as I believe will never be removed, till he is filled with peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Fri. 22. I rode to Painswick; and on Saturday, 23d, through heavy rain to Bristol.

I had now a week of rest and peace, which was refreshing both to my soul and body. Sunday, May 1, I had an opportunity of receiving the Lord's Supper, at St. James's, our Parish Church. We had another comfortable hour in the afternoon, while I was explaining, "This is the covenant which I will make, saith the Lord; I will put my laws in their minds, and write them in their hearts: and I will be unto them a God, and they shall be unto me a people."

Tues. May 3. I set out for Wales, in company with one who was my pupil at Oxford. We could get that night no farther than the Bull, five Welsh miles beyond Abergavenny; the next morning we came to Builth, just as the Church-prayers began. Mr. Phillips, the Rector of Mæsmennys, (at whose invitation I came,) soon took knowledge of me, and we began a friendship which I trust shall never end. I preached on a tomb at the east end of the church at four, and again at seven. Mr. Gwynne

and Mr. Prothero (Justices of Peace) stood on either hand of me; and all the people before, catching every word, with the most serious and eager attention.

Thur. 5. I rode over such rugged mountains as I never saw before, to Cardiff; but it was late before we came in, so that I could not preach that night. Friday, 6th, I preached at eleven in the New Room, which the Society had just built in the heart of the town; and our souls were sweetly comforted together. About two I preached at Lantrissant, and at Ponmon-Castle in the evening to a loving and serious congregation.

Sat. 7. I was desired to preach at Cowbridge. We came into the town about eleven; and many people seemed very desirous to hear for themselves, concerning the way which is every where spoken against; but it could not be: the sons of Belial gathered themselves together, headed by one or two wretches called gentlemen; and continued shouting, cursing, blaspheming, and throwing showers of stones, almost without intermission. So that after some time spent in prayer for them, I judged it best to dismiss the congregation.

Sun. 8. I preached in the Castle-yard at Cardiff, at five in the morning and seven in the evening; in the afternoon at Wenvo, where the church was quite filled with those who came from many miles round; and God answered many of them in the joy of their hearts: it was a solemn and refreshing season.

Mon. 9. I returned to Bristol. Most of the week I spent in visiting the Society in Kingswood, whom I found quite clear of those vain janglings, which had for a time well nigh torn them in pieces.

Tues. 17. My brother set out for Cornwall; where (according to the accounts we had frequently received) abundance of those, who before neither feared God nor regarded man, began to inquire what they must do to be saved? But the same imprudence which had laid the foundation for all the disturbances in Staffordshire, had broken out here also, and turned many of our friends into bitter and implacable enemies. Violent persecution was a natural consequence of this; but the power of God triumphed over all.

May 22, being Whitsunday, I preached both at Kingswood and Bristol, on those solemn words: "Jesus stood and cried, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and

drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Tues. 24. I rode to Cirencester, and preached on a green place, at a little distance from the town, on, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Wednesday, 25th, I preached to a little company at Oxford. Thursday, 26th, I had a large congregation at Wycombe; from whence I hastened to London, and concluded the day by enforcing those awful words at the Foundery: "The Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh! Behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him."

Sun. 29. Being Trinity Sunday, I began officiating at the Chapel in West-Street, near the Seven Dials, of which (by a strange chain of providences) we have a lease for several years. I preached on the Gospel for the day, part of the third chapter of St. John, and afterwards administered the Lord's Supper to some hundreds of communicants. I was a little afraid at first that my strength would not suffice for the business of the day, when a service of five hours (for it lasted from ten to three) was added to my usual employment; but God looked to that: so I must think; and they that will call it enthusiasm may. I preached at the Great Gardens at five to an immense congregation, on, "Ye must be born again." Then the Leaders met, (who filled all the time that I was not speaking in public,) and after them the Bands. At ten at night I was less weary than at six in the morning.

The following week I spent in visiting the Society. On Sunday, June 5, the service at the chapel lasted till near four in the afternoon; so that I found it needful, for the time to come, to divide the communicants into three parts, that we might not have above six hundred at once.

Wed. 8. I ended my course of visiting; throughout which I found great cause to bless God; so very few having drawn back to perdition out of nineteen hundred and fifty souls.

Sat. 18. I received a full account of the terrible riots which had been in Staffordshire. I was not surprised at all; neither should I have wondered if, after the advices they had so often heard from the pulpit, as well as from the episcopal chair, the zealous high Church-men had rose, and cut all that were called Methodists in pieces.

Mon. 20. Resolving to assist them as far as I could, I set out early in the morning, and after preaching at Wycombe about noon, in the evening came to Oxford. Tuesday, 21st, We rode to Birmingham; and in the morning, Wednesday, 22d, to Francis Ward's, at Wednesbury.

Although I knew all that had been done here was as contrary to law, as it was to justice and mercy, yet I knew not how to advise the poor sufferers, or to procure them any redress. I was then little acquainted with the English course of law, having long had scruples concerning it; but, as many of these were now removed, I thought it best to inquire whether there could be any help from the laws of the land? I therefore rode over to Counsellor Littleton, at Tamworth, who assured us, "We might have an easy remedy, if we resolutely prosecuted, in the manner the law directed, those rebels against God and the King."

Thur. 23. I left Wednesbury, and in the evening preached at Melbourn, in Derbyshire. I preached at Nottingham (where I met my brother coming from the north) on Friday, and on Saturday and Sunday at Epworth.

Mon. 27. I preached at Awkborough, on the Trent side, to a stupidly-attentive congregation. We then crossed over, and rode to Sykehouse: on Tuesday to Smeton, and on Wednesday to Newcastle.

Thur. 30. I immediately inquired into the state of those whom I left here striving for the mastery; and some of them I found were grown faint in their minds: others had turned back as a dog to the vomit; but about six hundred still continued striving together for the hope of the Gospel.

• Monday, July 4, and the following days, I had time to finish the Instructions for Children.

Sun. 10. I preached at eight on Chowdon-Fell, on, "Why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ever since I came to Newcastle the first time, my spirit had been moved within me at the crowds of poor wretches who were every Sunday in the afternoon sauntering to and fro on the Sandhill. I resolved, if possible, to find them a better employ; and as soon as the service at All-saints was over, walked straight from the church to the Sandhill, and gave out a verse of a psalm. In a few minutes I had company enough, thousands upon thousands crowding together. But the prince of this world fought with all his might, lest

426 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

his kingdom should be overthrown. Indeed the very mob of Newcastle, in the height of their rudeness, have commonly some humanity left. I scarce observed that they threw any thing at all: neither did I receive the least personal hurt; but they continued thrusting one another to and fro, and making such a noise that my voice could not be heard; so that after spending near an hour in singing and prayer, I thought it best to adjourn to our own house.

Mon. 11. I had almost such another congregation in the High-Street at Sunderland; but the tumult subsided in a short time; so that I explained, without any interruption, the one true religion, "Righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Thur. 14. I preached at the Lower-Spen, seven or eight (northern) miles from Newcastle. John Brown had been obliged to remove hither from Tanfield Leigh: (I believe by the peculiar providence of God.) By his rough and strong, though artless, words, many of his neighbours had been much convinced, and began to search the Scriptures as they never had done before; so that they did not seem at all surprised when I declared, "He that believeth hath everlasting life."

Sun. 17. I preached (as I had done the Wednesday before) to my favourite congregation at Placey, on, "Him hath God exalted with his own right-hand, to be a Prince and a Saviour." I then joined a little company of them together, who desire "Repentance and remission of sins."

Mon. 18. I set out from Newcastle with John Downes, of Horseley. We were four hours riding to Ferry-Hill, about twenty measured miles. After resting there an hour, we rode softly on; and at two o'clock came to Darlington. I thought my horse was not well. He thought the same of his; though they were both young, and very well the day before. We ordered the hostler to fetch a farrier, which he did without delay; but, before the men could determine what was the matter, both the horses laid down and died.

I hired a horse to Sandhutton, and rode on, desiring John Downes to follow me. Thence I rode to Borough-bridge, on Tuesday morning, and then walked on to Leeds.

Wed. 20. I preached at Birstal and Hightown. After I had visited all the Societies in these parts, and preached

at as many of the little towns as I could, on Monday, 25th, I rode to Barley-Hall. Many from Sheffield were there. We rejoiced greatly together in "Him who justifieth the ungodly." On Tuesday night and Wednesday morning I preached at Nottingham: on Wednesday evening at Markfield.

Fri. 28. We rode to Newport-Pagnel; and Saturday, 29th, to London.

Sat. August 6. A convenient chapel was offered me in Snow's-Fields, on the other side the water. It was built on purpose, it seems, by a poor Arian misbeliever, for the defence and propagation of her bad faith; but the wisdom of God brought that device to nought, and ordered, by his over-ruling providence, that it should be employed, not for crucifying the Son of God afresh, but for calling all to believe on his name.

Mon. 8. Upon mention made of my design to preach here, a zealous woman warmly replied, "What! At Snow's-Fields! Will Mr. W. preach at Snow's-Fields? Surely he will not do it! Why, there is not such another place in all the town. The people there are not men, but devils." However, I resolved to try if God was not stronger than them. So this evening I preached there on that scripture, "Jesus said, They that be whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Sun. 14. Mr. G. assisted me at the chapel: one who had then a deep sense of the goodness of God, in lifting him up from the gates of death, and delivering him out of all his troubles.

Mon. 22. After a few of us had joined in prayer, about four I set out, and rode softly to Snow-Hill, where the saddle slipping quite upon my mare's neck, I fell over her head, and she ran back into Smithfield. Some boys caught her, and brought her to me again, cursing and swearing all the way. I spoke plainly to them, and they promised to amend. I was setting forward, when a man cried, "Sir, you have lost your saddle-cloth." Two or three more would needs help me to put it on; but these too swore at almost every word. I turned to one and another, and spoke in love. They all took it well, and thanked me much. I gave them two or three little books, which they promised to read over carefully.

Before I reached Kensington, I found my mare had lost

428 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

a shoe. This gave me an opportunity of talking closely, for near half an hour, both to the smith and his servant. I mention these little circumstances to show how easy it is to redeem every fragment of time, (if I may so speak,) when we feel any love to those souls for which Christ died.

Tues. 23. I came to Kingswood in the afternoon, and in the evening preached at Bristol.

Wed. 24. I made it my business to inquire concerning the truth of a strange relation which had been given me; and I found there was no possibility of doubting it. The plain fact was this:—

“The Rev. Mr. — (I use the words of a gentleman of Bristol, whose manuscript lies by me) preached at two or three churches on these words: “Having the form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” After showing the different sorts of Dissenters from the Church of England, who (as he said) had only the form of godliness, he inveighed very much against the novel sect, the upstart Methodists; (as he termed them;) which, indeed, he was accustomed to do, more or less, in all his sermons. “These are the men (said he) whom St. Paul foretold, who have the form, the outward show, of holiness, but not the power; for they are ravening wolves, full of hypocrisy within.” He then alleged many grievous things against them; but without all colour of truth; and warned his flock to turn away from them, and not to bid them God-speed, lest they should be partakers of their evil deeds.

“Shortly after he was to preach at St. Nicholas Church. He had named the above-mentioned text twice, when he was suddenly seized with a rattling in his throat, attended with an hideous groaning. He fell backward against the door of the pulpit, burst it open, and would have fallen down the stairs, but that some people caught him, and carried him away, as it seemed, dead into the vestry. In two or three days he recovered his senses, and the Sunday following died!”

In the evening the word of God was indeed quick and powerful. Afterwards I desired the men as well as the women to meet; but I could not speak to them. The spirit of prayer was so poured upon us all, that we could only speak to God.

Having found for some time a strong desire to unite with Mr. Whitefield as far as possible, to cut off needless

dispute, I wrote down my sentiments, as plain as I could, in the following terms :—

“ There are three points in debate : 1. Unconditional Election. 2. Irresistible Grace. 3. Final Perseverance.

With regard to the first, Unconditional Election, I believe,

That God, before the foundation of the world, did unconditionally elect certain persons to do certain works, as Paul to preach the Gospel :

That he has unconditionally elected some nations to receive peculiar privileges ; the Jewish nation in particular :

That he has unconditionally elected some nations to hear the Gospel ; as England and Scotland now, and many others in past ages :

That he has unconditionally elected some persons to many peculiar advantages, both with regard to temporal and spiritual things :

And I do not deny, (though I cannot prove it is so,)

That he has unconditionally elected some persons to eternal glory.

But I cannot believe,

That all those who are not thus elected to glory must perish everlastingly : or,

That there is one soul on earth, who has not ever had a possibility of escaping eternal damnation.

With regard to the second, Irresistible Grace, I believe,

That the grace which brings faith, and thereby salvation, into the soul, is irresistible at that moment :

That most believers may remember some time when God did irresistibly convince them of sin :

That most believers do at some other times find God irresistibly acting upon their souls :

Yet I believe, that the grace of God, both before and after those moments, may be and hath been resisted : And

That in general it does not act irresistibly, but we may comply therewith or may not.

And I do not deny,

That in some souls the grace of God is so far irresistible, that they cannot but believe and be finally saved.

But I cannot believe,

That all those must be damned, in whom it does not thus irresistibly work. Or,

That there is one soul on earth, who has not, and never had any other grace, than such as does in fact increase his damnation, and was designed of God so to do.

With regard to the third, Final Perseverance, I incline to believe,

That there is a state attainable in this life, from which a man cannot finally fall. And

That he has attained this, who can say, "Old things are passed away: all things in me are become new."

Thur. 25. My subject in the evening was, "As ye have received the Lord Jesus Christ, so walk ye in him." O what a season was this! I scarce remember such an hour since the first stone of the house was laid.

Fri. 26. I set out for Cornwall. In the evening I preached at the Cross in Taunton, on, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." A poor man had posted himself behind, in order to make some disturbance. But the time was not come. The zealous wretches who "deny the Lord that bought them," had not yet stirred up the people. Many cried out, "Throw down that rascal there: knock him down: beat out his brains." So that I was obliged to entreat for him more than once, or he would have been but roughly handled.

Sat. 27. I reached Exeter in the afternoon; but as no one knew of my coming, I did not preach that night, only to one poor sinner at the inn: who, after listening to our conversation for a while, looked earnestly at us, and asked, whether it was possible for one who had in some measure known the power of the world to come, and was fallen away, (which she said was her case,) to be renewed again to repentance? We besought God in her behalf, and left her sorrowing; and yet not without hope.

Sun. 28. I preached at seven to a handful of people. The sermon we heard at church was quite innocent of meaning: what that in the afternoon was, I know not, for I could not hear a single sentence.

From church I went to the Castle: where were gathered together (as some imagined) half the grown persons in the city. It was an awful sight. So vast a congregation in that solemn amphitheatre! And all silent and still while I explained at large and enforced that glorious truth,

"Happy are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered."

I went thence to poor Mr. V——, the Clergyman, lying under sentence of death. He had for some time acted the lunatic, but I soon put him out of his play; and he appeared to have wit enough in his anger. I designed to close in with him immediately: but two cruelly-impertinent gentlemen would needs come into the room, so that I could say no more, but was obliged to leave him in their hands.

The lad, who was to die the next day, was quite of another spirit. He appeared deeply affected while we were speaking, and yet more during our prayer. And no sooner were we gone than he broke out into a bitter cry. Who knows but he might be heard by Him that made him?

Mon. 29. We rode forward. About sunset we were in the middle of the first, great, pathless moor beyond Launceston. About eight we were got quite out of the way. But we had not gone far before we heard Bodmin bell. Directed by this, we turned to the left, and came to the town before nine.

Tues. 30. In the evening we reached St. Ives. At seven I invited all guilty, helpless sinners, who were conscious they had nothing to pay, to accept of free forgiveness. The room was crowded both within and without, but all were quiet and attentive.

Wed. 31. I spoke severally with those of the Society, who were about one hundred and twenty. Near an hundred of these had found peace with God. Such is the blessing of being persecuted for righteousness' sake! As we were going to church at eleven, a large company at the market-place welcomed us with a loud huzza: wit as harmless as the ditty sung under my window: (composed, one assured me, by a gentlewoman of their own town:)

"Charles Wesley is come to town,
To try if he can pull the churches down."

In the evening I explained "the promise of the Father." After preaching, many began to be turbulent. But John Nelson went into the midst of them, spoke a little to the loudest, who answered not again, but went quietly away.

Thur. Sept. 1. We had a day of peace. Friday, 2d, I preached at Morva, about eight miles west of St. Ives,

on the North Sea. My text was, "The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea. The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."

I observed an earnest stupid attention in the hearers, many of whom appeared to have good desires; but I did not find one who was convinced of sin, much less who knew the pardoning love of God.

Sat. 3. I rode to the Three-cornered Down, (so called,) nine or ten miles east of St. Ives, where we found two or three hundred tinnors, who had been some time waiting for us. They all appeared quite pleased and unconcerned: and many of them ran after us to Gwenap, (two miles east,) where their number was quickly increased to four or five hundred. I had much comfort here, in applying these words, "He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor." One who lived near invited us to lodge at his house; and conducted us back to the Green in the morning. We came thither just as the day dawned. I strongly applied those gracious words, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely," to five or six hundred serious people. At Trezuthan-Downs, five miles nearer St. Ives, we found seven or eight hundred people: to whom I cried aloud, "Cast away all your transgressions; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" After dinner I preached again to about a thousand people, on, "Him whom God hath exalted to be a Prince and Saviour." It was here first I observed a little impression made, on two or three of the hearers: the rest (as usual) showing huge approbation and absolute unconcern.

At seven I met the Society at St. Ives, where two women, who came from Penzance, fell down as dead, and soon after cried out, in the bitterness of their souls. But we continued crying to God in their behalf, till he put a new song in their mouths. At the same time, a young man of the same place, who had once known the peace of God, but had sinned it away, had a fresh and clear manifestation of the love of God.

Tues. 6. I preached at Morva, on, "Righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." But still I could not find the way into the hearts of the hearers, although they were earnest to hear what they understood not.

Wed. 7. I preached to two or three hundred people at

Zennor, (four miles west of St. Ives,) and found much good-will in them, but no life. It was much the same on Thursday, 8th, while I preached at Cannegy-Downs, (five miles south of St. Ives,) on, "The resurrection of the dry bones." There is not yet so much as a shaking among them: much less is there any breath in them.

Fri. 9. I rode in quest of St. Hilary-Downs, ten or twelve miles south-east of St. Ives. And the downs I found, but no congregation, neither man, woman nor child. But by that I had put on my gown and cassock, about an hundred gathered themselves together, whom I earnestly called "To repent and believe the Gospel." And if but one heard, it was worth all the labour.

Sat. 10. There were prayers at St. Just in the afternoon, which did not end till four. I then preached at the Cross, to, I believe, a thousand people, who all behaved in a quiet and serious manner.

At six I preached at Sennan, near the Land's-End, and appointed the little congregation (consisting chiefly of old, grey headed men) to meet me again at five in the morning. But on Sunday, 11th, great part of them were got together between three and four o'clock. So between four and five we began praising God; and I largely explained and applied, "I will heal their backslidings; I will love them freely."

We went afterwards down, as far as we could go safely, toward the point of the rocks at the Land's-End. It was an awful sight! But how will these melt away, when God ariseth to judgment!—The sea between does indeed "boil like a pot. One would think the deep to be hoary. But though they swell, yet can they not prevail: He hath set their bounds, which they cannot pass."

Between eight and nine I preached at St. Just, on the green plain near the town, to the largest congregation (I was informed) that ever had been seen in these parts. I cried out, with all the authority of love, "Why will ye die, O house of Israel?" The people trembled and were still. I had not known such an hour before in Cornwall.

Soon after one, we had such another congregation, on the north side of Morva church. The Spirit of the great King was in the midst; and I was filled both with matter and words, even more abundantly than at St. Just. "My strength will I ascribe unto Thee."

At Zennor I preached about five, and then hastened to

434 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

St. Ives, where we concluded the day in praising God with joyful lips.

Mon. 12. I preached at one on Trezuthan-Downs, and in the evening at St. Ives. The dread of God fell upon us while I was speaking, so that I could hardly utter a word : but most of all in prayer, wherein I was so carried out as scarce ever before in my life.

I had had for some time a great desire to go and publish the love of God our Saviour, if it were but for one day, in the isles of Scilly; and I had occasionally mentioned it to several. This evening three of our brethren came and offered to carry me thither, if I could procure the Mayor's boat, which (they said) " was the best sailer of any in the town." I sent, and he lent it me immediately. So the next morning, Tuesday, 13th, John Nelson, Mr. Shepherd and I, with three men and a pilot, sailed from St. Ives. It seemed strange to me, to attempt going in a fisher-boat, fifteen leagues upon the main ocean : especially when the waves began to swell, and hang over our heads. But I called to my companions, and we all joined together in singing lustily and with a good courage,—

When passing through the wat'ry deep,
I ask in faith His promis'd aid,
The waves an awful distance keep,
And shrink from my devoted head.
Fearless their violence I dare :
They cannot harm ; for God is here.

About half an hour after one, we landed on St. Mary's, the chief of the inhabited islands.

We immediately waited upon the Governor with the usual present, viz., a newspaper. I desired him likewise to accept of an Earnest Appeal. The Minister not being willing I should preach in the church, I preached at six in the street, to almost all the town, and many soldiers, sailors and workmen, on, " Why will ye die, O house of Israel?" It was a blessed time, so that I scarce knew how to conclude. After sermon I gave them some little books and hymns, which they were so eager to receive, that they were ready to tear both them and me to pieces.

For what political reason such a number of workmen were gathered together, and employed at so large an expense, to fortify a few barren rocks, which whosoever would take, deserves to have them for his pains, I could not possibly devise; but a providential reason was easy

to be discovered. God might call them together to hear the Gospel, which perhaps otherwise they might never have thought of.

At five in the morning I preached again on, "I will heal their backsliding; I will love them freely." And between nine and ten, having talked with many in private, and distributed both to them and others between two and three hundred hymns and little books, we left this barren, dreary place, and set sail for St. Ives; though the wind was strong, and blew directly in our teeth. Our pilot said we should have good luck if we reached the land: but he knew not Him whom the wind and seas obey. Soon after three we were even with the Land's-End, and about nine we reached St. Ives.

Fri. 16. I preached to four or five hundred on St. Hilary-Downs, and many seemed amazed. But I could find none as yet who had any deep or lasting conviction.

In the evening, as I was preaching at St. Ives, Satan began to fight for his kingdom. The mob of the town burst into the room, and created much disturbance; roaring, and striking those that stood in their way, as though Legion himself possessed them. I would fain have persuaded our people to stand still; but the zeal of some, and the fear of others, had no ears; so that finding the uproar increase, I went into the midst, and brought the head of the mob up with me to the desk. I received but one blow on the side of the head; after which we reasoned the case, till he grew milder and milder, and at length undertook to quiet his companions.

Sat. 17. I preached at St. Just, and at the Land's-End, where, in the morning, Sunday, 18th, I largely declared, (what many shall witness in due time,) "By grace ye are saved, through faith."

The congregation at St. Just was greatly increased, while I proclaimed to every convicted sinner, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

About one I preached at Morva, on Rom. viii. 15, to the largest congregation I had seen in Cornwall. The Society afterwards met, consisting of above an hundred Members. Which of these will endure to the end?

At Zennor I preached on Isaiah liii., feeling no weariness at all; and concluded the day with our brethren at St. Ives, rejoicing and praising God.

Mon. 19. We were informed the rabble had designed to

make their general assault in the evening; but one of the Aldermen came, at the request of the Mayor, and stayed with us the whole time of the service; so that no man opened his mouth, while I explained, "None is like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heavens unto thy help, and in his excellency upon the sky."

Tues. 20. I concluded my preaching here, by exhorting all who had "escaped the corruption that is in the world," to "add to" their "faith courage, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity." At eleven, I spent some time with our brethren in prayer, and commended them to the grace of God. At Trezuthan-Downs I preached to two or three thousand people, on, "The highway of the Lord, the way of holiness." We reached Gwenap a little before six, and found the plain covered from end to end: it was supposed there were ten thousand people, to whom I preached Christ our "Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." I could not conclude till it was so dark we could scarce see one another; and there was on all sides the deepest attention; none speaking, stirring, or scarce looking aside. Surely here, though in a temple not made with hands, was God "worshipped in the beauty of holiness!"

One of those who were present was Mr. P——, once a violent adversary. Before sermon began, he whispered one of his acquaintance, "Captain, stand by me, don't stir from me:" he soon burst out into a flood of tears, and quickly after sunk down. His friend caught him, and prevented his falling to the ground. O may the Friend of Sinners lift him up!

Wed. 21. I was waked between three and four, by a large company of tinnerns, who, fearing they should be too late, had gathered round the house, and were singing and praising God. At five I preached once more, on, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." They all devoured the word. O may it be health to their soul and marrow unto their bones!

We rode to Launceston that day. Thursday, 22d, as we were riding through a village called Sticklepath, one stopped me in the street, and asked abruptly, "Is not thy name John Wesley?" Immediately two or three more came up, and told me, "I must stop there." I did so; and before we had spoke many words, our souls took acquaintance with each other. I found they were called

Quakers; but that hurt not me, seeing the love of God was in their hearts.

In the evening I came to Exeter, and preached in the Castle; and again at five in the morning, to such people as I have rarely seen; void both of anger, fear, and love.

We went by Axminster, at the request of a few there that feared God, and had joined themselves together some years since. I exhorted them, So to seek after the power, as not to despise the form of godliness; and then rode on to Taunton, where we were gladly received by a little company of our brethren from Bristol.

I had designed to preach in the yard of our Inn; but, before I had named my text, having uttered only two words, Jesus Christ, a tradesman of the town (who, it seems, was Mayor elect) made so much noise and uproar, that we thought it best to give him the ground: but many of the people followed me up into a large room, where I preached unto them Jesus. The next evening, Saturday, 24th, we arrived safe at Bristol.

Sun. 25. I preached at Bristol in the morning, and at Kingswood in the afternoon, on, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever." A vast congregation, in the evening, were quite serious and attentive.

Mon. 26. I had a great desire to speak plain to a young man, who went with us over the New-Passage: to that end I rode with him three miles out of my way; but I could fix nothing upon him. Just as we parted, walking over Caerleon Bridge, he stumbled and was like to fall. I caught him, and began to speak of God's care over us. Immediately the tears stood in his eyes, and he appeared to feel every word which was said: so I spoke, and spared not. The same I did to a poor woman, who led my horse over the bridge, to our landlord and his wife, and to one who occasionally came in; and they all expressed a surprising thankfulness.

About seven in the evening we reached Kirkhowell, four miles beyond Abergavenny. Tuesday, 27th, we came to Mr. Gwynne's, at Garth. It brought fresh to my mind our first visit to Mr. Jones, at Fonmon. How soon may the master of this great house too, be called away into an everlasting habitation!

Having so little time to stay, I had none to lose; so the same afternoon, about four o'clock, I read prayers,

438 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

and preached, to a small congregation, on, the "faith" which "is counted" to us "for righteousness."

Very early in the morning I was obliged to set out, in order to reach Cardiff before it was dark. I found a large congregation waiting there, to whom I explained, Zech. ix. 11: "By the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water."

Thur. 29. I preached at the Castle of Fonmon, to a loving, simple people. Friday, 30th, it being a fair, still evening, I preached in the Castle-yard at Cardiff; and the whole congregation, rich and poor, behaved as in the presence of God. Saturday, Oct. 1, I preached at Carphilly in the morning, Lanttrissent at noon, and Cardiff at night.

Sun. 2. Fearing my strength would not suffice for preaching more than four times in the day, I only spent half an hour in prayer with the Society in the morning. At seven, and in the evening, I preached in the Castle; at eleven, in Wenvo Church; and in the afternoon, in Porth-Kerry church, on, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel."

Mon. 3. I returned to Bristol, and employed several days in examining and purging the Society, which still consisted (after many were put away) of more than seven hundred persons. The next week I examined the Society in Kingswood, in which I found but a few things to reprove.

Sat. 15. The Leaders brought in what had been contributed in their several Classes toward the public debt; and we found it was sufficient to discharge it, which was therefore done without delay.

Mon. 17. I left Bristol, and preached in the evening to a very civil congregation at Painswick. Tuesday, 18th, I preached to a little earnest company at Gutherton, near Tewksbury; and in the evening at Evesham, on the happiness of him, "whose iniquities are forgiven, and his sins covered."

Wed. 19. I called on Mr. Taylor, at Quinton, six or seven miles north of Evesham. About eleven I preached in his church, to a thin, dull congregation, and then rode on to Birmingham.

Thur. 20. After preaching to a small, attentive congregation, I rode to Wednesbury. At twelve I preached in a ground near the middle of the town, to a far larger

congregation than was expected, on, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever." I believe every one present felt the power of God. And no creature offered to molest us, either going or coming; but the Lord fought for us, and we held our peace.

I was writing at Francis Ward's in the afternoon, when the cry arose, that "the mob had beset the house." We prayed that God would disperse them: and it was so; one went this way, and another that; so that, in half an hour, not a man was left. I told our brethren, "Now is the time for us to go;" but they pressed me exceedingly to stay. So, that I might not offend them, I sat down, though I foresaw what would follow. Before five the mob surrounded the house again, in greater numbers than ever. The cry of one and all was, "Bring out the Minister; we will have the Minister." I desired one, to take their captain by the hand and bring him into the house. After a few sentences interchanged between us, the lion was become a lamb. I desired him to go and bring one or two more of the most angry of his companions. He brought in two, who were ready to swallow the ground with rage; but in two minutes they were as calm as he. I then bade them make way, that I might go out among the people. As soon as I was in the midst of them, I called for a chair, and standing up, asked, "What do you want with me?" Some said, "We want you to go with us to the Justice?" I replied, "That I will with all my heart." I then spoke a few words, which God applied; so that they cried out with might and main, "The gentleman is an honest gentleman, and we will spill our blood in his defence." I asked, "Shall we go to the Justice to-night or in the morning?" Most of them cried, "To-night, to-night:" on which I went before, and two or three hundred followed; the rest returning whence they came.

The night came on before we had walked a mile, together with heavy rain. However, on we went to Bentley-Hall, two miles from Wednesbury. One or two ran before to tell Mr. Lane, "They had brought Mr. Wesley before his worship." Mr. Lane replied, "What have I to do with Mr. Wesley? Go and carry him back again." By this time the main body came up, and began knocking at the door. A servant told them, "Mr. Lane was in bed." His son followed, and asked, "What was

the matter?" One replied, "Why, an't please you, they sing psalms all day; nay, and make folks rise at five in the morning; and what would your worship advise us to do?" "To go home," said Mr. Lane, "and be quiet."

Here they were at a full stop, till one advised to go to Justice Persehouse at Walsal. All agreed to this. So we hastened on, and about seven came to his house; but Mr. P—— likewise sent word, "That he was in bed." Now they were at a stand again; but at last they all thought it the wisest course to make the best of their way home. About fifty of them undertook to convoy me; but we had not gone a hundred yards when the mob of Walsal came pouring in, like a flood, and bore down all before them. The Darlaston mob made what defence they could; but they were weary as well as out-numbered; so that, in a short time, many being knocked down, the rest ran away, and left me in their hands.

To attempt speaking was vain; for the noise on every side was like the roaring of the sea; so they dragged me along till we came to the town, where seeing the door of a large house open, I attempted to go in; but a man, catching me by the hair, pulled me back into the middle of the mob. They made no more stop till they had carried me through the main street, from one end of the town to the other. I continued speaking all the time to those within hearing, feeling no pain or weariness. At the west end of the town, seeing a door half open, I made toward it, and would have gone in; but a gentleman in the shop would not suffer me, saying, "They would pull the house down to the ground." However, I stood at the door, and asked, "Are you willing to hear me speak?" Many cried out, "No, no! knock his brains out; down with him; kill him at once." Others said, "Nay, but we will hear him first." I began asking, "What evil have I done? Which of you all have I wronged in word or deed?" and continued speaking for above a quarter of an hour, till my voice suddenly failed; then the floods began to lift up their voice again; many crying out, "Bring him away; bring him away."

In the meantime my strength and my voice returned, and I broke out aloud into prayer. And now the man who just before headed the mob, turned and said, "Sir, I will spend my life for you: follow me, and not one soul here shall touch a hair of your head." Two or three of his

fellows confirmed his words, and got close to me immediately; at the same time the gentleman in the shop cried out, "For shame, for shame; let him go." An honest butcher, who was a little farther off, said, "It was a shame they should do thus;" and pulled back four or five, one after another, who were running on the most fiercely. The people then, as if it had been by common consent, fell back to the right and left; while those three or four men took me between them, and carried me through them all. But on the bridge the mob rallied again; we, therefore, went on one side, over the Mill-dam, and thence through the meadows, till a little before ten God brought me safe to Wednesbury; having lost only one flap of my waistcoat, and a little skin from one of my hands.

I never saw such a chain of providences before; so many convincing proofs, that the hand of God is on every person and thing, over-ruling all as it seemeth Him good.

The poor woman of Darlaston, who had headed that mob, and sworn that none should touch me, when she saw her followers give way, ran into the thickest of the throng, and knocked down three or four men, one after another; but many assaulting her at once, she was soon overpowered, and had probably been killed in a few minutes, (three men keeping her down and beating her with all their might,) had not a man called to one of them, "Hold, Tom, hold!" "Who is there," said Tom: "What, honest Munchin? Nay, then, let her go." So they held their hand, and let her get up and crawl home as well as she could.

From the beginning to the end I found the same presence of mind as if I had been sitting in my own study; but I took no thought for one moment before another; only once it came into my mind, that if they should throw me into the river, it would spoil the papers that were in my pocket; for myself, I did not doubt but I should swim across, having but a thin coat and a light pair of boots.

The circumstances that follow, I thought, were particularly remarkable, 1. That many endeavoured to throw me down while we were going down hill on a slippery path to the town; as well-judging, that if I was once on the ground, I should hardly rise any more; but I made no stumble at all, nor the least slip until I was entirely out

of their hands. 2. That although many strove to lay hold on my collar or clothes, to pull me down, they could not fasten at all; only one got fast hold of the flap of my waistcoat, which was soon left in his hand; the other flap, in the pocket of which was a bank note, was torn but half off. 3. That a lusty man, just behind, struck at me several times with a large oaken stick, with which, if he had struck me once on the back part of my head, it would have saved him all further trouble; but every time the blow was turned aside I know not how; for I could not move to the right hand or left. 4. That another came rushing through the press, and raising his arm to strike, on a sudden let it drop, and only stroked my head, saying, "What soft hair he has!" 5. That I stopped exactly at the Mayor's door, as if I had known it, (which the mob doubtless thought I did,) and found him standing in the shop, which gave the first check to the madness of the people. 6. That the very first men whose hearts were turned were the heroes of the town, the captains of the rabble on all occasions; one of them having been a prize-fighter at the bear-garden. 7. That from first to last I heard none give a reviling word, or call me by any opprobrious name whatever; but the cry of one and all was, "The Preacher! The Preacher! The Parson! The Minister!" 8. That no creature, at least within my hearing, laid any thing to my charge, either true or false; having in the hurry quite forgot to provide themselves with an accusation of any kind; and, lastly, That they were as utterly at a loss what they should do with me, none proposing any determinate thing, only, "Away with him, kill him at once."

By how gentle degrees does God prepare us for his will! Two years ago a piece of brick grazed my shoulders. It was a year after that the stone struck me between the eyes. Last month I received one blow, and this evening two; one before we came into the town, and one after we were gone out; but both were as nothing: for though one man struck me on the breast with all his might, and the other on the mouth with such force that the blood gushed out immediately, I felt no more pain from either of the blows than if they had touched me with a straw.

It ought not to be forgotten, that when the rest of the Society made all haste to escape for their lives, four only

would not stir, William Sitch, Edward Slater, John Griffiths, and Joan Parks; these kept with me, resolving to live or die together; and none of them received one blow but William Sitch, who held me by the arm from one end of the town to the other. He was then dragged away and knocked down, but he soon rose and got to me again. I afterwards asked him, "What he expected when the mob came upon us?" He said, "To die for Him who had died for us;" and he felt no hurry or fear, but calmly waited till God should require his soul of him.

I asked J. P——, if she was not afraid when they tore her from me? She said, "No; no more than I am now; I could trust God for you as well as myself. From the beginning I had a full persuasion that God would deliver you; I knew not how, but I left that to Him, and was as sure as if it were already done." I asked if the report was true, that she had fought for me? She said, "No; I knew God would fight for his children."—And shall these souls perish at the last?

When I came back to Francis Ward's, I found many of our brethren waiting upon God. Many also whom I never had seen before, came to rejoice with us; and the next morning, as I rode through the town in my way to Nottingham, every one I met expressed such a cordial affection, that I could scarce believe what I saw and heard.

I cannot close this head without inserting as great a curiosity in its kind as, I believe, was ever yet seen in England, which had its birth within a very few days of this remarkable occurrence at Walsal.

"Staffordshire.

"To all High-Constables, Petty-Constables, and other of His Majesty's Peace Officers, within the said County, and particularly to the Constable of Tipton," (near Walsal.)

"Whereas, we his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County of Stafford, have received information that several disorderly persons, styling themselves Methodist Preachers, go about raising routs and riots, to the great damage of his Majesty's liege people, and against the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King:

"These are in his Majesty's name, to command you and every one of you, within your respective districts, to make

444 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

diligent search after the said Methodist Preachers, and to bring him or them before some of us his said Majesty's Justices of the Peace, to be examined concerning their unlawful doings."

"Given under our hands and seals, this day
of October, 1743.

"J. LANE,
"W. PERSEHOUSE."

N. B. The very Justices to whose houses I was carried, and who severally refused to see me!

Sat. 22. I rode from Nottingham to Epworth, and on Monday set out for Grimsby. But at Ferry we were at a full stop; the boatmen telling us, "We could not pass the Trent; it was as much as our lives were worth to put from shore before the storm abated." We waited an hour; but being afraid it would do much hurt if I should disappoint the congregation at Grimsby, I asked the men, "If they did not think it possible to get to the other shore?" They said, "They could not tell; but if we would venture our lives they would venture theirs." So we put off, having six men, two women, and three horses in the boat. Many stood looking after us on the river-side, in the middle of which we were, when in an instant the side of the boat was under water, and the horses and men rolling one over another: we expected the boat to sink every moment, but I did not doubt of being able to swim ashore. The boatmen were amazed as well as the rest; but they quickly recovered and rowed for life; and soon after, our horses leaping overboard, lightened the boat, and we all came unhurt to land.

They wondered what was the matter I did not rise, (for I lay along in the bottom of the boat,) and I wondered too, till upon examination I found that a large iron crow, which the boatmen sometimes used, was (none knew how) run through the string of my boot, which pinned me down that I could not stir; so that if the boat had sunk I should have been safe enough from swimming any further.

The same day, and, as near as we could judge, the same hour, the boat in which my brother was crossing the Severn, at the New-Passage, was carried away by the wind, and in the utmost danger of splitting upon the

rocks; but the same God, when all human hope was past, delivered them as well as us.

In the evening, the house at Grimsby not being able to contain one-fourth of the congregation, I stood in the street, and exhorted every prodigal to "arise and go to his father." One or two endeavoured to interrupt, but they were soon stilled by their own companions. The next day, Tuesday, 25th, one in the town promised us the use of a large room; but he was prevailed upon to retract his promise before the hour of preaching came. I then designed going to the Cross; but the rain prevented, so that we were a little at a loss, till we were offered a very convenient place by "a woman which was a sinner." I there declared Him (about one o'clock) whom God hath exalted, to give repentance and remission of sins; and God so confirmed the word of his grace, that I marvelled any one could withstand Him.

However, the prodigal held out till the evening, when I enlarged upon her sins and faith, who "washed our Lord's feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head." She was then utterly broken in pieces, (as, indeed, was well nigh the whole congregation,) and came after me to my lodging, crying out, "O Sir! what must I do to be saved?" Being now informed of her case, I said, "Escape for your life. Return instantly to your husband." She said, "But how can it be? Which way can I go? he is above an hundred miles off. I have just received a letter from him, and he is at Newcastle-upon-Tyne." I told her, "I am going for Newcastle in the morning: you may go with me. William Blow shall take you behind him." And so he did. Glory be to the friend of sinners! He hath plucked one more brand out of the fire.—Thou poor sinner, thou hast received a prophet in the name of a prophet; and thou art found of Him that sent him.

Wed. 26. I enlarged upon those deep words, "Repent, and believe the Gospel." When I had done, a man stood forth in the midst, one who had exceedingly troubled his brethren, vehemently maintaining (for the plague had spread hither also) that they ought not to pray, to sing, to communicate; to search the Scriptures, or to trouble themselves about works, but only to believe and be still; and said with a loud voice, Mr. Wesley! let me speak a few words. "Is it not said, 'A certain man had two

sons. And he said unto the younger, Go and work in my vineyard. And he answered, I will not; but afterwards he repented and went'? I am he. I said yesterday, 'I will not go to hear him; I will have nothing to do with him:' but I repent; here is my hand. By the grace of God I will not leave you as long as you live."

William Blow, Mrs. S. and I set out at six. During our whole journey to Newcastle I scarce observed her to laugh or even smile once; nor did she ever complain of any thing, or appear moved in the least with those trying circumstances which many times occurred in our way: a steady seriousness or sadness rather appeared in her whole behaviour and conversation, as became one that felt the burden of sin, and was groaning after salvation. In the same spirit, by all I could observe or learn, she continued during her stay at Newcastle. Not long after her husband removed from thence, and wrote to her to follow him. She set out in a ship bound for Hull; a storm met them by the way,—the ship sprung a leak; but though it was near the shore, on which many people flocked together, yet the sea ran so exceeding high, that it was impossible to make any help. Mrs. S. was seen standing on the deck as the ship gradually sunk; and afterwards hanging by her hands on the ropes till the masts likewise disappeared. Even then for some moments they could observe her floating upon the waves, till her clothes, which buoyed her up, being thoroughly wet, she sunk,—I trust, into the ocean of God's mercy.

AN EXTRACT
OF THE
REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY'S JOURNAL,
FROM OCTOBER 27, 1743, TO NOVEMBER 17, 1746.

VI.

FRIDAY, Oct. 28, 1743. We rode with William Holmes, an Israelite indeed, from Epworth to Syke-House. Here I preached at ten, and hastened on to Leeds; from whence, setting out early in the morning, I had hopes of reaching Wensley-Dale before it was dark; but it could not be: so in the dusk of the evening, understanding we had five or six miles still to ride, I thought it best to procure a guide. In less than an hour, it being extremely dark, I perceived we were got out of all road: we were in a large meadow, near a river, and (it seemed to me) almost surrounded with water: I asked our guide, "Do you know where you are?" and he honestly answered, "No." So we rode on as we could, till about eight we came to a little house, whence we were directed into a lane which led to Wensley.

Sun. 30. Mr. Clayton read prayers, and I preached, on, "What must I do to be saved?" I showed in the plainest words I could devise, "That mere outside religion would not bring us to heaven; that none could go thither without inward holiness, which was only attained by faith." As I went back through the church-yard, many of the parish were in high debate, "What religion this Preacher is of?" Some said, He must be a Quaker; others, an Anabaptist: but at length, one deeper learned than the rest, brought them all clearly over to his opinion, "That he was a Presbyterian Papist!"

448 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Mon. 31. We set out early in the morning, and in the evening came to Newcastle.

Wed. Nov. 2. The following advertisement was published :—

“ For the benefit of Mr. Este.

“ By the Edinburgh Company of Comedians, on Friday, Nov. 4, will be acted a comedy, called, *The Conscious Lovers*: to which will be added, a Farce, called *Trick upon Trick*; or, *Methodism Displayed*.”

On Friday a vast multitude of spectators were assembled in the Moot-Hall to see this. It was believed, there could not be less than fifteen hundred people, some hundreds of whom sat on rows of seats, built upon the stage. Soon after the Comedians had begun the first act of the play, on a sudden all those seats fell down at once, the supporters of them breaking like a rotten stick; the people were thrown one upon another, about five foot forward, but not one of them hurt: after a short time, the rest of the spectators were quiet, and the actors went on. In the middle of the second act, all the shilling seats gave a crack, and sunk several inches down; a great noise and shrieking followed, and as many as could readily get at the door, went out and returned no more: notwithstanding this, when the noise was over, the actors went on with the play. In the beginning of the third act, the entire stage suddenly sunk about six inches; the players retired with great precipitation; yet in a while they began again. At the latter end of the third act, all the sixpenny seats, without any kind of notice, fell to the ground; there was now a cry on every side; it being supposed that many were crushed to pieces: but upon inquiry, not a single person (such was the mercy of God!) was either killed or dangerously hurt; two or three hundred remaining still in the hall. Mr. Este (who was to act the Methodist) came upon the stage, and told them, “ For all this, he was resolved the farce should be acted.” While he was speaking, the stage sunk six inches more, on which he ran back in the utmost confusion, and the people as fast as they could out of the door, none staying to look behind him.

Which is most surprising, That those players acted this farce the next week? or, That some hundreds of people came again to see it?

Sun. 6. We had an useful practical sermon at St. Nicholas's church in the morning, and another at St. Andrew's in the afternoon. At five I preached to a willing multitude, on, The Prodigal Son. How many of these were lost, and now are found?

In the following week I endeavoured to speak severally to each Member of the Society. The numbers I found neither to rise nor fall; but many had increased in the knowledge and love of God.

Sunday, 13th, and the following days, I preached, and regulated the Societies at Painsher, Tanfield, Horseley and Placey.

Thur. 17. I preached at the Spen, on, "Christ Jesus our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." I have seldom seen an audience so greatly moved, since the time of my first preaching at Bristol: men, women, and children, wept and groaned, and trembled exceedingly; many could not contain themselves in these bounds, but cried with a loud and bitter cry. It was the same at the meeting of the Society; and likewise in the morning, while I was showing the happiness of those "whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sin is covered." I afterwards spake with twelve or fourteen of them severally; and found good ground to believe, that God had given them to "taste of the good word, and of the powers of the world to come."

Sun. 20. After preaching at Newcastle morning and evening, I earnestly exhorted the Society, "To beware of speaking evil of each other, and of censuring those who followed not with us."

Mon. 21. I besought them, in my farewell Sermon, "To forget the things which are behind, and press on to the prize of their high calling."

Tues. 22. I preached at Norton, five miles from Ferry-bridge; and in the evening at Syke-House. Here I received a full account of poor David Taylor, once a workman, that needed not to be ashamed. Three years since, he knew all we preached to be true. Then Mr. I. brought him over to German stillness. When I talked with him at Sheffield, he was thoroughly sensible of his mistake; but Mr. Simpson soon drew him into it again. A third time he was deeply convinced by my brother, and unconvinced shortly after. He was once more brought into the scripture-way by Mr. Graves, and seemed to be

established therein; but in a few months he veered about to the old point, and has been a poor sinner indeed ever since.

Wed. 23. I rode to Leeds; preached in the evening and morning, Thursday, 24th, and went on to Birstal, where I preached at one in the afternoon; and again about seven in the evening. Friday, 25th, at the desire of Arthur Bate, I rode to Wakefield, in order to talk with his wife; but I soon found I did not come to talk, but to hear. After an hour or two, we rode on to Barley-Hall, where I preached on, "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth." Thence we rode to Sheffield, where I preached in perfect peace, on, "We know that we are of God."

Sat. 26. I went on to Nottingham. In the morning, Sunday, 27th, I preached in the House at five, and about eight, at the High Cross, on, "Why will ye die, O house of Israel?" I went thither again from St. Mary's in the afternoon, and proclaimed to an immense multitude, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever." I saw not one scoffer, or one trifler, but all, to a man, appeared serious and attentive.

Mon. 28. I rode to Breson, and spent an hour or two in conversation with Mr. Simpson, the oddest, honestest enthusiast, surely, that ever was upon earth. Before we parted, he told me, "One thing I don't like: your taking away my flock at Nottingham. Just now that text is brought to my mind; it is the very case; pray read it out." I did so, as follows: "And Abraham reprov'd Abimelech, because of the well which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away." I desired him to read my answer in the next verse: "And Abimelech said unto Abraham, I wot not who hath done this thing: neither heard I any thing thereof from thee, save this day."

In the afternoon I rode to Markfield. After preaching there twice, on Thursday, 29th, I went on to Hinckley, and preached to a large and quiet congregation. We rode to Market-Harborough that day, the next to Hockley, and on Thursday, December 1, to London.

I had full employment here for some weeks following, in speaking severally to the Members of the Society; many of these I was obliged to set aside: there remained about two and twenty hundred persons.

January 1, 1744. I received a letter from a poor man, wrote in the fulness of his heart, as follows :—

“ Herein is written lamentation, and mourning, and woe.

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE had but very little rest since I left you, the cause of which was, my leaving God first. It is true, I did in a very solemn manner, on my knees, break from you, as though I had done so merely to please God; but by what followed, it appears otherwise; for I no sooner broke off from you, than I began to think how I might make a worldly advantage by it. O, thought I, I shall not now be so scrupulous in many things, particularly in doing work on the Lord's day. Then I got me some rabbits and fowls, and I would be sure to feed and clean them well on that day, and to be out on the hunt for food for them; and I took care my poor family should be sharers with me in the drudgery, or else they must expect many a sour look and bitter word at least. I then grew worse and worse, insomuch, that I have given such occasion to the enemy to blaspheme, such a wound to religion as I could not heal, were I to live ten thousand years. O what have I done! O what have I lost! O that I might be admitted into God's favour once more! Pray for me, I beseech you, if you see any hope left; if you do not think that repentance will be denied me, though I seek it carefully with tears. Then if you can think of any shame that will be bad enough for me to undergo, before I am admitted into that company I so willingly left, see whether I will not readily submit to it. O that God would be pleased to bring me into light and love again! How careful would I be of his grace! How would I deny myself, take up my cross, endure shame, suffer persecution of every kind, follow the dear Lord Jesus without the camp! But I have crucified him afresh. O that I could give full scope to my mind! but I cannot. These lines are but a very imperfect description of the state, condition and desire, of that backslider, that apostate, that traitor,

“ JOHN EWER.”

Sun. 8. In the evening I rode to Brentford, on Monday to Marlborough, and the next day to Bristol.

Wed. 11. I began examining the Society; and not before it was wanted: for the plague was begun. I found

many crying out, "Faith, faith! Believe, believe!" but making little account of the fruits of faith; either of holiness or good works. In a few days they came to themselves, and had a more thorough understanding of the truth as it is in Jesus.

Wed. 25. I preached at Bath, on James ii. 14: "Can faith save him?" Many of the audience appeared to be deeply convinced; and one, though a gentlewoman, could not conceal the emotion of her mind, but broke out into strong cries and tears. Perhaps even here, the bread we have "cast upon the waters, shall be found after many days."

Fri. 27. Having finished the work I proposed, I left Bristol, and Saturday, 28th, reached London.

Wed. Feb. 1. Just before the time I had designed to begin preaching at the Chapel, I was seized with such a pain as I do not remember ever to have felt before in my life. But I forgot it as soon as I had read my text, Psalm xviii. 1, &c.: "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength." And from that time I felt it no more.

About this time the soldiers abroad began to meet together, as we learned from the following letter:—

Ghent, Feb. 2, 1744.

"SIR,

"I MAKE bold to send you these lines. February 18, 1743, we began our march for Germany. I was then much cast down, and my heart was ready to break. But the day we marched to Maestricht, I found the love of God shed abroad in my heart, that I thought my very soul was dissolved into tears. But this lasted not above three weeks, and then I was in heaviness again; till, on April 24th, as I was walking in the fields, God broke my hard heart in pieces. And yet I was not delivered from the fear of death. I went to my quarters very sick and weak, in great pain of soul and body: by the morning I was so weak, I could scarce go: but this proved a sweet night to my soul; for now I knew there was no condemnation for me, believing in Christ Jesus.

"June 16. The day we engaged the French at Dettingen, as the battle began, I said, 'Lord, in thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.' Joy overflowed my soul, and I told my comrades, 'If I fall this day, I shall rest in the everlasting arms of Christ.' Now I felt I

could be content to be cast into the sea, for the sake of my dear brethren, so their eyes might be opened, and they might see, before it was too late, the things that belong unto their peace.

"When we came to winter-quarters, there were but three of us joined together; but now, by the blessing of God, we are increased to twelve: and we have reason to believe, the hand of the Lord is with us. I desire, for the sake of Him whom we follow after, that you would send us some instructions how to proceed in our little Society. God is become a mouth to me, and has blessed even my word to some of their souls. All praise, and glory, and honour, be unto Him, and to the Lamb for ever and ever! "From your affectionate brother, J. H."

Wed. 15. We were informed of the invasion intended by the French, who were expected to land every hour. I therefore exhorted the congregation, in the words of our Lord, (Luke xxi. 36,) "Watch ye and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things, and to stand before the Son of man."

Thur. 16. In the evening, after expounding the 3d chapter of Jonah, I besought every one to "turn from his evil way, and cry mightily to God;" and enlarged on these words, "Who can tell, if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"

We observed Friday, 17th, as a day of solemn fasting and prayer. In the afternoon, many being met together, I exhorted them, now, while they had opportunity, to make to themselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; to deal their bread to the hungry, to clothe the naked, and not to hide themselves from their own flesh. And God opened their hearts, so that they contributed near fifty pounds, which I began laying out the very next hour, in linen, woollen, and shoes, for them whom I knew to be diligent, and yet in want. In the evening I expounded Daniel iii.; and those words in particular: "The God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace. But if not, we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

Sat. 18. I received an account, from James Jones, of another kind of invasion in Staffordshire: the substance of it was as follows:—

"On Monday, January 23d, a great mob gathered

together at Darlaston, a mile from Wednesbury. They fell upon a few people who were going to Wednesbury, and among the rest, on Joshua Constable's wife, of Darlaston. Some of them threw her down, and five or six held her down, that another might force her; but she continued to resist, till they changed their purpose, beat her much, and went away.

"Mon. Jan. 30. The mob gathered again, broke into Joshua Constable's house, pulled part of it down, broke some of his goods in pieces, and carried the rest away; particularly all his shop goods, to a considerable value. But, not satisfied with this, they sought for him and his wife, swearing they would knock their brains out: their little children, meantime, as well as themselves, wandered up and down, no one daring to relieve or take them in, lest they should hazard their own lives.

"Tues. 31. About a hundred of the mob met together, on the Church-Hill, at Wednesbury; but hearing some of Wednesbury were resolved to defend themselves, they dispersed for that time.

"Wed. Feb. 1. Mr. Charles Wesley came to Birmingham, and the next day preached at Wednesbury: the whole congregation was quiet and attentive, nor had we any noise or interruption.

"Mon. 6. I accompanied him part of his way, and in the afternoon came back to Wednesbury. I found the Society met together, and commending themselves to God in prayer, having been informed that many, both at Darlaston and other places, had bound themselves by an oath, to come on Shrove-Tuesday, (the next day,) and plunder all the Methodists in Wednesbury.

"We continued in prayer till the evening. I desired as many as could to meet me again at eight in the morning; but I had scarce begun to speak, when one came running with all speed, and told us, a large mob was coming into the town, and had broke into some houses already. I immediately retired to my father's house; but he did not dare to receive me, nor did any one else; till, at length, Henry Parks took me in; whence, early in the morning, I went to Birmingham.

"The mob had been gathering all Monday night; and on Tuesday morning they began their work. They assaulted, one after another, all the houses of those who were called Methodists: they first broke all their windows,

suffering neither glass, lead, nor frames to remain therein; then they made their way in: and all the tables, chairs, chests of drawers, with whatever was not easily removable, they dashed in pieces, particularly shop-goods, and furniture of every kind. What they could not well break, as feather-beds, they cut in pieces, and strewed about the room. William Sitch's wife was lying ill; but that was all one; they pulled away her bed too, and cut it in pieces." (Had the French come in that place, would they have done more?) "All this time none offered to resist them; indeed most part, both men and women, fled for their lives: only the children stayed, not knowing whither to go.

"Wearing apparel, and things which were of value, or easily saleable, they carried away: every man loading himself with as much as he could well carry, of whatever he liked best.

"Some of the gentlemen who had set the mob to work, or threatened to turn away collier or miner out of their service, that did not come and do his part, now drew up a paper, for those of the Society to sign, importing, that they would never invite or receive any Methodist Preacher more. On this condition, they told them they would stop the mob at once; otherwise they must take what followed.

"This they offered to several; but they declared, one and all, We have already lost our goods, and nothing more can follow but the loss of our lives, which we *will* lose too, rather than wrong our consciences.

"On Wednesday the mob divided into two or three companies, one of which went to Aldridge, four miles from Wednesbury, and plundered many houses there, as they had done in several other villages. Here also they loaded themselves with clothes and goods of all sorts, as much as they could stand under. They came back through Walsal with their spoils; but the gentlemen of Walsal being apprised of their coming, raised a body of men, who met them, took what they had away, and laid it up in the Town-hall. Notice was then sent to Aldridge, that every man who had been plundered, might come and take his own goods.

"Mr. Wood, of Wednesbury, likewise told several they should have what could be found of their goods, on condition they would promise not to receive or hear these Preachers any more.

"On Friday, in the afternoon, I went from Birmingham, designing to go to Tipton-Green; but finding the mob were still raging up and down, I returned to Birmingham, and soon after (having as yet no more place in these parts) set out for London."

Any who desires to see a fuller and more particular account of these surprising transactions, may read a small Tract, entitled, "Modern Christianity, exemplified at Wednesbury."

Before I leave this subject, it may be proper to insert an advertisement, which was not long after inserted in the public papers.

In the Whitehall and London Evening Post, Saturday, February 18, was a paragraph with some mistakes, which it may not be amiss to rectify. "By a private letter from Staffordshire, we have advice of an insurrection of the people called Methodists,"—the insurrection was not of the people called Methodists, but *against* them;—"who, upon some *pretended* insults from the Church party,"—they *pretended* no insults from the Church party; being themselves no other than *true* members of the Church of England; but were *more* than insulted by a mixed multitude of Church-goers, (who seldom, if ever, go near a church,) Dissenters, and Papists,—“have assembled themselves in a riotous manner.” Here is another small error personæ. Many hundreds of the mob did assemble themselves in a riotous manner, having given public notice several days before, (particularly by a paper set up in Walsal Market-place,) that on Shrove-Tuesday they intended to come and *destroy the Methodists*, and inviting all the county to come and join them:—"And having committed several outrages,"—without ever committing any, they have suffered all manner of outrages for several months past,—“they proceeded, at last, to burn the house of one of their adversaries.”—Without burning any house, or making any resistance, some hundreds of them, on Shrove-Tuesday last, had their own houses broken up, their windows, window-cases, beds, tools, goods of all sorts, broke all to pieces, or taken away by open violence; their live goods driven off, themselves forced to fly for their lives, and most of them stripped of all they had in the world.

Ever since the 20th of last June, the mob of Walsal,

Darlaston, and Wednesbury, hired for that purpose by their betters, have broke open their poor neighbours' houses at their pleasure, by night and by day, extorted money from the few that had it, took away or destroyed their victuals and goods, beat and wounded their bodies, threatened their lives, abused their women, (some in a manner too horrible to name,) and openly declared, they would destroy every Methodist in the country: the Christian country, where His Majesty's innocent and loyal subjects have been so treated for eight months, and are now, by their wanton persecutors, publicly branded for rioters and incendiaries!

Sun. 19. Mr. Viney came to me from Yorkshire, and told me, "About a year ago, being then Vor-steher (a kind of President) in the Church of the Brethren, I proposed some scruples I had concerning our discipline, with the reasons on which they were grounded, to Mr. Spangenberg; and begged, that till these were removed, I might have liberty to remain, not a governor, but a private member of the Church.

"With this Mr. Spangenberg would not comply; so, at his instance, I continued in my office, and the thing slept till May, 1743, when, in a meeting of the labourers, (so they term their church officers,) I was ordered to withdraw; and the following questions were proposed:—1. Whether Richard Viney were not of Satan, and an enemy to the Church? And, 2. Whether his objections to the discipline of the Brethren did not spring from anger, and self, and pride? After a debate of four hours, I was called in and asked, If I was convinced those objections were wrong? I said, I was not, and desired they would cast lots; which, after a little debate, they did. The lot came, 'the objections are just:' so, for a time, the thing slept again.

"But, in November following, they considered the point again. The result was, that they sent one to tell me, 'I was of Satan, had raised objections against the Brethren from anger, and self, and pride, and therefore I was cut off from the Church, and delivered over to Satan.' I was greatly surprised, but not disturbed. God gave me perfect peace. After much prayer, I wrote to you, to know where I might meet you. I know it was the will of God I should come, and that I should give myself up to your direction; and therefore I have spoken without any dis-

458 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

guise or reserve." I told him, "If you go back, you are welcome to go; if you stay with me, you are welcome to stay: only, whatever you do, do it with a clear conscience, and I shall be satisfied either way."

After a few days, he went back to Yorkshire, to talk with his wife. The Brethren saw him again, and I saw him no more.

Sat. 25. In returning at night from Snow's-Fields, at the corner of Joyner-street, the coach, wherein five of us were, was overturned, but without any one's being hurt; although the shock was so great as not only to dash the fore-windows in pieces, but to break the pole in two.

Mon. 27. Was the day I had appointed to go out of town; but understanding a proclamation was just published, requiring all Papists to go out of London before the Friday following, I was determined to stay another week, that I might cut off all occasion of reproach. I was the more willing to stay, that I might procure more raiment for the poor before I left London.

For this purpose I made a second collection, which amounted to about thirty pounds; but perceiving that the whole money received would not answer one-third of the expense, I determined to go round the Classes, and beg for the rest, till I had gone through the whole Society.

Friday, March 2, I began to put this in execution. While I was at a house in Spitalfields, a Justice of Peace came with the Parish-officers, being on their search for Papists. I was glad of the opportunity to talk with them at large, both of our principles and practice. When I went out, a pretty large mob attended me to the door of the house to which I was going; but they did us no hurt, only gaped, and stared, and hallooed as loud as they could.

Mon. 5. I was much pressed to write an address to the King, which I did in the following terms:—

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty;

"The humble Address of the Societies in England and Wales, in derision called Methodists.

"MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

"So inconsiderable as we are, 'a People scattered, and peeled, and trodden underfoot from the beginning hitherto,' we should in no wise have presumed, even on

this great occasion, to open our lips to your Majesty, had we not been induced, indeed, constrained, so to do, by two considerations. The one, that, in spite of all our remonstrances on that head, we are continually represented as a peculiar sect of men separating ourselves from the Established Church: the other, that we are still traduced as inclined to Popery, and consequently disaffected to your Majesty.

"Upon these considerations, we think it incumbent upon us, if we must stand as a distinct body from our brethren, to tender for ourselves our most dutiful regards to your Sacred Majesty; and to declare, in the presence of Him we serve, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, that we are a part (however mean) of that Protestant Church established in these kingdoms; that we unite together for this, and no other end, to promote, so far as we may be capable, justice, mercy, and truth, the glory of God, and peace and good-will among men; that we detest and abhor the fundamental doctrines of the Church of Rome, and are steadily attached to your Majesty's royal person and illustrious house.

"We cannot indeed say or do either more or less than we apprehend consistent with the written word of God; but we are ready to obey your Majesty to the uttermost, in all things which we conceive to be agreeable thereto; and we earnestly exhort all with whom we converse, as they fear God, to honour the King. We, of the Clergy in particular, put all men in mind to revere the higher powers as of God; and continually declare, Ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

"Silver and gold (most of us must own) we have none; but such as we have, we humbly beg your Majesty to accept, together with our hearts and prayers. May He who hath bought us with his blood, the Prince of all the kings of the earth, fight against all the enemies of your Majesty, with the two-edged sword that cometh out of his mouth! And when he calleth your Majesty from this throne, full of years and victories, may it be with that voice, 'Come, receive the kingdom prepared for thee from the beginning of the world!'

"These are the continual prayers of your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects,

"JOHN WESLEY, &c."

But, upon farther consideration, it was judged best to lay it aside.

Sun. 11. I found it was absolutely necessary for me to spend a few days at Bristol. In the evening I set out. As I rode through Newbury, the next day, my horse fell, and threw me into a deep mire. I was not hurt; but, after cleaning myself a little, went on, and came to Kingswood between one and two on Tuesday. I preached here with great enlargement of heart, as I did at Bristol in the evening.

Wed. 14. I endeavoured to clear up the misunderstandings which had arisen, by hearing the contending parties face to face. It was, as I suspected, a mere strife of words, of which they were all so fully sensible, that I believe they will not so easily again fall into this snare of the Devil.

Thur. 15. I talked largely with the Kingswood Stewards, concerning the state of their Schools and Society; and then with the Master, Mistress, and Children, and found great cause to bless God on their behalf. In the evening I preached at Bristol, on, "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength;" and, after commending myself to their prayers, rode to Marchfield.

Sat. 17. We reached London.

Sun. 18. Was a day of rest.

Tues. 20. Having received a summons from the Justices of Surrey, to appear at their Court at St. Margaret's-hill, I did so, and asked, "Has any one any thing to lay to my charge?" None made any reply. At length one of the Justices said, "Sir, are you willing to take the oaths to his Majesty, and to sign the declaration against Popery?" I said, "I am;" which I accordingly did, and returned home.

Thur. 22. I gave the Society an account of what had been done with regard to the poor. By the contributions and collections I had received about one hundred and seventy pounds; with which above three hundred and thirty poor had been provided with needful clothing. Thirty or forty remaining still in want, and there being some debts for the clothes already distributed, the next day, being Good Friday, I made one collection more of about six and twenty pounds. This treasure, at least, neither rust nor moth shall corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal.

Sat. 24. My brother and I agreed it was enough for one of us to stay in town, while the other endeavoured to strengthen our brethren in other parts. So on Monday, 26th, I set out, and came in the evening to Newbury. While we were at breakfast the next day, two or three poor men were, with many oaths, relating their exploits the day before. I turned, and appealed to their own hearts, "Whether they were doing well?" They owned their fault, and were so loving we could scarce get away.

We called at a house in the afternoon, wherein the first person we met was so drunk, that she could not speak plain, and could but just make shift to curse and swear. In the next room, we found three or four more merry people keeping Easter in much the same manner: but their mirth was soon spoiled. They gave earnest heed to the things they little regarded before; and knew not how to express their thankfulness for our advice, and for a few little books which we left with them.

In the evening I preached at Bristol. On Wednesday and Thursday I settled all things there; and on Friday, 30th, rode to Middlesey, where I preached to a small, serious congregation.

Sat. 31. Calling at Chard, I light upon a poor woman unawares, who was earnestly groaning for redemption. At noon we spent an hour with a little company in Axminster, and hastened on for Crockern-Wells; but the hail and snow falling fast, we could not reach it till past nine o'clock.

Sunday, April 1. I rode to Sticklepath. At one I preached in an open place, on, "This is the record, that God hath given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." A storm of rain and hail began while I was preaching; but the congregation did not move. At five I preached again. Many of the poor people followed me to the house at which I lodged; and we could not consent to part till I had spent another hour in exhortation, and prayer, and thanksgiving.

I read to-day the strange account of that John Endicot, Governor of New England, and his associates there, who beat and imprisoned so many of the poor Quakers, and murdered William Robinson, Marmaduke Stephenson, and others. O who would have looked for Father Inquisitors at Boston! Surely these men did not cry out against Popish cruelty!

Mon. 2. I preached at five; and rode on toward Launceston. The hills were covered with snow, as in the depth of winter. About two we came to Trewint, wet and weary enough, having been battered by the rain and hail for some hours. I preached in the evening to many more than the house would contain, on the happiness of him whose sins are forgiven. In the morning, Degory Isbel undertook to pilot us over the great moor, all the paths being covered with snow, which, in many places, was driven together too deep for horse or man to pass. The hail followed us for the first seven miles: we had then a fair, though exceeding sharp, day. I preached at Gwenap, in the evening, to a plain, simple-hearted people; and God comforted us by each other.

Wed. 3. About eleven we reached St. Ives. I was a little surprised at entering John Nance's house, being received by many who were waiting for me there with a loud (though not bitter) cry; but they soon recovered, and we poured out our souls together in praises and thanksgiving.

As soon as we went out, we were saluted, as usual, with a huzza, and a few stones or pieces of dirt. But, in the evening, none opened his mouth while I proclaimed, "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength.—I will call upon the Lord which is worthy to be praised; so shall I be safe from my enemies."

Thur. 5. I took a view of the ruins of the house which the mob had pulled down a little before for joy, that Admiral Matthews had beat the Spaniards. Such is the Cornish method of thanksgiving! I suppose if Admiral Lestock had fought too, they would have knocked all the Methodists on the head.

Both this morning and evening the congregation was as large as the house could well contain. In the Society, God did indeed sit upon his people as a refiner's fire. He darted into all (I believe hardly one excepted) the melting flame of love; so that their heads were as water, and their eyes as fountains of tears.

Fri. 6. I spoke with the Members of the Society severally, and observed with great satisfaction, that persecution had driven only three or four away, and exceedingly strengthened the rest. The persecution here was owing in great measure to the indefatigable labours of Mr. Hoblin and Mr. Simmons, gentlemen worthy to be had in

everlasting remembrance, for their unwearied endeavours to destroy heresy.

*Fortunati ambo! Si quid mea pagina possit,
Nulla dies unquam memori vos eximet ævo.*

Sat. 7. I took down part of the account of the late riot, which (to show the deep regard of the actors herein for his Majesty) was on the self-same day on which his Majesty's proclamation against rioters was read. Yet I see much good has been brought out of it already; particularly the great peace we now enjoy.

About eleven, John Nance and I set out for Morva. Having both the wind and rain full in our faces, we were thoroughly wet before we came to Rosemargay, where some of our brethren met us. I found there had been a shaking among them, occasioned by the confident assertions of some, that they had seen Mr. Wesley, a week or two ago, with the Pretender in France; and others, that he was in prison at London: yet the main body still stood firm together, and were not removed from the hope of the Gospel.

The wind and rain beat hard upon us again, as we walked from Morva to St. Just, which also frightened many from coming. However, some hundreds were there, to whom I declared, "If ye have nothing to pay, God will frankly forgive you all." It is remarkable, that those of St. Just were the chief of the whole country for hurling, fighting, drinking, and all manner of wickedness; but many of the lions are become lambs, are continually praising God, and calling their old companions in sin to come and magnify the Lord together.

• Sun. 8. I preached here at five and at twelve; and in the evening at Morva.

Mon. 9. I preached at noon on Triggivary Downs, about two miles from Penzance. A great congregation was deeply attentive while I described the sect which is every where spoke against. At four I preached near Gulval, regulated the little Society, and returned to St. Ives.

Tues. 10. I was inquiring, how Dr. B—e, a person of unquestioned sense and learning, could speak evil of this way, after he had seen such a change in the most abandoned of his parishioners? But I was satisfied, when Jonathan Reeves informed me, "That on the Dr.'s asking

him, who had been the better for this preaching? and his replying, 'The man before you, (John Daniel,) for one, who never before knew any work of God upon his soul;' the Dr. answered, 'Get along; you are a parcel of mad, crazy-headed fellows;' and taking him by the shoulder, fairly thrust him to the door." See here, what it is, which the world accounts madness! The knowing a work of God upon our soul.

In the afternoon I walked over to Zunnor, and after preaching settled the infant Society.

Wed. 11. Being the public fast, the Church at St. Ives was well filled. After reading those strong words, "If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household?" Mr. H. fulfilled them, by vehemently declaiming against the new sect, as enemies of the Church, Jacobites, Papists, and what not! After church we met, and spent an hour in prayer, not forgetting the poor sinner against his own soul.

In the evening I preached at Gwenap. I stood on the wall, in the calm, still evening, with the setting sun behind me, and almost an innumerable multitude before, behind, and on either hand. Many likewise sat on the little hills, at some distance from the bulk of the congregation. But they could all hear distinctly while I read, "The disciple is not above his Master," and the rest of those comfortable words, which are day by day fulfilled in our ears.

Thur. 12. About eleven I preached at Crowan. In the afternoon we heard of the success of Mr. H.'s Sermon. James Wheatley was walking through the town in the evening, when the mob gathered, and began to throw stones from all quarters. He stepped into a house, but the master of it followed him, like a lion, to drag him out. Yet, after a few words, his mind was changed, and he swore nobody should hurt him. Meantime one went for a Justice of Peace, who came, and promised to see him safe home. The mob followed, hallooing and shouting amain. Near John Paynter's house the Justice left him; they quickly beset the house. But a messenger came from the Mayor, forbidding any to touch Mr. Wheatley, at his peril. He then went home. But between seven and eight the mob came and beset John Nance's house. John Nance and John Paynter went out and stood before the door, though they were quickly covered with dirt. The

cry was, "Bring out the Preacher; pull down the house;" and they began to pull down the boards which were nailed against the windows. But the Mayor hearing it, came without delay and read the proclamation against riots: upon which, after many oaths and imprecations, they thought proper to disperse.

About six I reached Morva, wet through and through; the rain having continued with scarce any intermission. However, a little company were gathered together, to whom I preached, on, "Ask, and it shall be given you." The next day I had time to dry my clothes at Mr. John's, near Penzance. At noon I preached on the Downs, not far from his house; about three at Gulval, and at St. Ives in the evening.

Sat. 14. I took my leave of St. Ives; preached at two in Cambourn, and at Gwenap in the evening.

Sun. 15. I preached here again at five, and at eight in Stithian parish. The place was a green, triangular plat, capable of holding eight or ten thousand men. I stood on one of the walls that enclosed it. Many sat on the other two. Some thousands stood between, and received the word with all readiness of mind.

At five I preached at Gwenap, on a little hill, near the usual place. It rained from the time I began till I concluded. I felt no pain while I spoke, but the instant I had done, and all the time I was with the Society, my teeth and head ached so violently, that I had hardly any senses. I lay down as soon as I could, and fell asleep. In the morning (blessed be God) I ailed nothing.

Mon. 16. In the afternoon we came again to Trewint. Here I learned, that notice had been given of my preaching that evening in Laneast Church, which was crowded exceedingly. Mr. Bennet (the Minister of Laneast) carried me afterwards to his house, and (though above seventy years old) came with me in the morning to Trewint, where I had promised to preach at five.

Before we parted, Degory Isbel informed me of an accusation against me, current in those parts. It was really one which I did not expect: no more than that other, vehemently asserted at St. Ives, of my bringing the Pretender with me last Autumn, under the name of John Downes. It was, that "I called myself John Wesley; whereas everybody knew Mr. Wesley was dead."

466 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

In the afternoon we came to Sticklepath. I preached at five in the evening: the house was crowded as before. After a short exhortation, and an hour spent in prayer, I commended them to the grace of God.

Wed. 18. Before eight we reached Crediton, (or Kirton,) or rather the ruins of it; for the houses on both sides were all in ashes, for several hundred yards. Lighting on a serious woman, I asked, "Are the people of this place now warned to seek God?" She answered, "Although some of them perished in the flames, the rest are just as they were before, cursing, swearing, drinking, playing, and making merry, without God in all their thoughts." She added, "No longer ago than Thursday last, the men who were rebuilding one of the houses were bitterly cursing and swearing one at another, and two of them above the rest, when an arch they were under fell and crushed those two, with all their bones, in pieces." Will ye not at length hear the rod, and Him that hath appointed it?

Between five and six in the evening we reached Minehead. Finding a general expectation of it among the people, about seven I preached near the sea-shore, to almost all the inhabitants of the place. Most of the gentlemen of the town were there, and behaved with seriousness and decency.

Thur. 19. Having a sloop ready, which came on purpose, we ran over the Channel in about four hours. Some of our friends were waiting for us on the shore. About one we came to Fonmon-Castle. I found a natural wish, "O for ease and a resting-place." Not yet. But eternity is at hand!

I preached at six, and at five in the morning.

Fri. 20. About ten we set out for Cardiff, where in the evening I preached in the Castle-Yard. All were serious and attentive.

Sat. 21. I rode to Garth in Brecknockshire, and on Sunday, 22d, preached in the church there, both morning and afternoon. On Monday, 23d, I preached in Maesmennys church, and afterwards in the church-yard at Builth. I observed only one man with his hat on: probably through inattention; for he likewise kneeled down on the grass with the rest, as soon as I began to pray.

Tues. 24. I preached at Maesmennys again; and about

five in Landau church, near Brecknock. Such a church I never saw before. There was not a glass window belonging to it; but only boards, with holes bored here and there, through which a dim light glimmered in. Yet even here may the light of God's countenance shine. And it has shone on many hearts.

Wed. 25. We rode over the still snowy mountains. At twelve I preached at Killigaer: in the evening at Cardiff, and the next evening at Llanmon. On Saturday, 28th, I returned to Bristol.

After resting here for eight days, (though not unemployed,) on Monday, May 7th, I set out for the North. I preached about eight at Acton; in the afternoon at Stroud; in the evening at Painswick, and at five the next morning. About eight, Tuesday, 8th, I called at Gloucester, designing only to speak with a friend; but finding a house full of people, I would not disappoint their expectation, but stayed and preached on the form and the power of godliness. This made me somewhat later than I intended at Cheltenham, where I preached on, "By grace ye are saved, through faith," to a company who seemed to understand just as much of the matter as if I had been talking Greek. I found a people of quite another kind at Gutherton, to whom I preached on, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel." And many called upon God for grace so to do, even with strong cries and tears.

We had a remarkable blessing again at five in the morning, Wednesday, 9th. About noon I preached at Stanley, (a mile from Gutherton,) at three in Tewksbury, and in the evening at the Abbey in Evesham.

Thur. 10. Riding by Birmingham. I called at a village three miles beyond it. Here a poor man was cursing and swearing at so uncommon a rate, that I was constrained to speak to him very plainly. He received it, drunk as he was, in great love, and so did all his companions.

Fri. 11. I preached at Sheffield: on Saturday, 12th, about ten, at Barley-Hall. In the afternoon I rode to Epworth, and immediately went to Mr. Maw's, to return him thanks for his good offices to Mr. Downes, and his honest and open testimony for the truth, before the worshipful bench at Kirton. It was not his fault, that those honourable men regarded not the laws either of God or the king. But a soldier they were resolved he should be, right or wrong,—**"BECAUSE he was a Preacher."** So, to

468 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

make all sure, they sent him away, a prisoner to Lincoln gaol!

My first design was, to have gone the shortest way from Sheffield to Newcastle. But it was well I did not, considering the inexpressible panic which had spread itself in all places. So that I came just in time to remind all the poor frightened sheep, "That even the hairs of our head are all numbered."

I preached thrice at Epworth on Sunday, and on Monday, 14th, at Ferry. The constable who took Mr. Downes for a soldier, with one of the churchwardens, were of my audience. I was informed they had threatened great things before I came; but their threatenings vanished into air.

At two many of our brethren at Epworth met, whom I cheerfully commended to the grace of God. We were riding gently towards Fishlake, when two or three persons met us, and begged "We would not go that way; for the town, they said, was all up in arms, and abundance were waiting for us in the way, many of whom had made themselves very drunk, and so were ripe for any manner of mischief." We accordingly rode to Sykehouse another way: some came in all haste hither also, to tell us, "All the men in the congregation would be pressed." Others affirmed, "The mob was just coming; and that they would certainly fire the house, or pull it down to the ground." I told them, "Then our only way was, to make the best use of it while it was standing." So I began expounding the 10th chapter of St. Matthew: but no man opened his lips against us.

Tues. 15. After comforting the little flock at Norton, I rode the shortest way to Birstal. Here I found our brethren partly mourning and partly rejoicing, on account of John Nelson. On Friday, the 4th instant, (they informed me,) the constables took him, just as he had ended his sermon, at Atherton; and the next day carried him before the Commissioners at Halifax, the most active of whom was Mr. Coleby, Vicar of Birstal. Many were ready to testify that he was in no respect such a person as the Act of Parliament specified. But they were not heard: he was a Preacher; that was enough: so he was sent for a soldier at once.¹

¹ All the particulars of this memorable transaction are set down in "The case of John Nelson, written by himself."

At seven I preached on the hill, no man interrupting me: afterwards I inquired into the state of the Society; and found great cause to bless God, whose grace, even in these trying times, was sufficient for them.

Wed. 16. I talked at large with Mr. Viney. He said, "His first perplexity arose from reading and reflecting upon some writings, which the Count published in Pennsylvania; and that, the more deeply he considered the whole affair, the more thoroughly he was convinced, 1. That the Count was at least as much the head of theirs, as the Pope of the Romish Church. 2. That he had cruelly and unjustly broke up the congregation at Pilger-ruh, in Holstein, because (in obedience to the King of Denmark, their lawful Prince) they had disclaimed his superiority over them. 3. That the labourers among the brethren were absolutely arbitrary in their government of the people; and lastly, that they grossly abused the Lot, in support of their arbitrary power."

Thur. 17. I preached, at five, on Matthew the 10th; about noon, at Little Horton, near Bradford; about three in the afternoon, at Stickerlane, and at Birstal in the evening.

Fri. 18. I rode to Leeds, and preached in great peace.

Sat. 19. I went on to Mr. Clayton's, at Wensley.

Sun. 20. I preached in Redmire church, on part of John iii., the Gospel for the day. In the afternoon I preached at Bolton chapel, on, "We know that we are of God." I was much pleased at the serious behaviour of the congregation, both in the morning and afternoon; especially at Redmire, where, from a village of about thirty houses, we had more than fifty communicants.

• Mon. 21. I rode to Newcastle, and passed a quiet week.

Mon. 28. I began visiting the Classes in the town; and on Sunday, June 3d, those in the country, which I had never found so much in earnest before: I trust there is not only not a disorderly walker, but hardly a trifler left among them.

Fri. 8. I preached, at night, on John xvii. 3. The house could not contain the congregation; and most of them stayed either within or without, till the end of the midnight hymn.

Sun. 10. I preached at Biddick, about eight; at Tanfield, as soon as morning prayer was over; at Spen, about

three; and in Newcastle, at six. I concluded the day in praising God with the Society.

Mon. 11. I left Newcastle, and in the afternoon met John Nelson, at Durham, with Thomas Beard, another quiet and peaceable man, who had lately been torn from his trade and wife and children, and sent away as a soldier; that is, banished from all that was near and dear to him, and constrained to dwell among lions, for no other crime, either committed or pretended, than that of calling sinners to repentance. But his soul was in nothing terrified by his adversaries; yet the body, after a while, sunk under its burden. He was then lodged in the hospital at Newcastle, where he still praised God continually. His fever increasing, he was let blood; his arm festered, mortified, and was cut off: two or three days after which, God signed his discharge, and called him up to his eternal home.

" Servant of God, well done! Well hast thou fought
The better fight, who single hast maintain'd,
Against revolted multitudes, the cause
Of God, in word mightier than they in arms."

Tues. 12. In the evening I came to Knaresborough. About nine o'clock, I was informed that the house in which we were was beset, on every side, with men, women, and children. I desired those within to set open the doors, and let all come in that would. When the house was full, I came down. The noise presently ceased, and I proclaimed, "Christ our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Only one drunken man gave a little interruption; but his companions soon thrust him out of doors: so let all Satan's devices fall on his own head! I trust this mob did not come together in vain.

Wed. 13. I rode to Leeds, and thence to Birstal.

Tues. 14. I accompanied John Bennet into Lancashire. I preached to a small congregation, at eleven; in the afternoon, at Woodley, in Cheshire; and in the evening at Chinley-end, in Derbyshire, on, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel."

Fri. 15. I preached at Chinley at five; about noon, in the Peak; and in the evening, at Barley-Hall.

Sat. 16. In the evening I preached at Sykehouse; and, by setting out early in the morning, Sunday, 17th, at eight, preached in Epworth. I came thither in season; for two such sermons as Mr. Romley preached on this

day, so exquisitely bitter, and totally false, I cannot say I ever heard before.

After evening service I preached on Rom. iii. 22, to a much larger congregation than in the morning; and I believe all that were sincere of heart, were exceedingly comforted.

Mon. 18. I left Epworth; and, on Wednesday, 20th, in the afternoon, met my brother in London.

Monday, the 25th, and the following days, we spent in conference with many of our brethren, (come from several parts,) who desire nothing but to save their own souls, and those that hear them: and surely, as long as they continue thus minded, their labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

The next week we endeavoured to purge the Society of all that did not walk according to the Gospel. By this means we reduced the number of Members to less than nineteen hundred: but number is an inconsiderable circumstance. May God increase them in faith and love!

Mon. July 9. My brother set out for Cornwall. I had much trouble for the fortnight following, in endeavouring to prevent an unwary man from destroying his own and many other souls. On Monday, 23d, when I set out for Bristol, I flattered myself that the work was done; but upon my return, I found I had done just nothing; so that, on Thursday, August 2d, I was constrained to declare, in the Society, that Thomas Williams was no longer in connexion with us.

Fri. 10. I preached to the debtors in Newgate, and desired two or three of my friends to attend them weekly. I had a serious, well-behaved congregation: perhaps God may give us some fruit here also.

Tues. 14. Mr. Piers rode over with me to Shoreham, and introduced me to Mr. Perronet. I hope to have cause of blessing God for ever, for the acquaintance begun this day.

Wed. 15. I went to Bedlam, at the repeated request of Mr. S—, who had been confined there above two years. This was the person who, while he was speaking against my brother and me, to the Society at Kingswood, was, in a moment, struck raving mad. But, it seems, God is at length entreated for him, and has restored him to a sound mind.

Thur. 16. I received a remarkable letter, part of which is here subjoined :—

“REV. SIR,

“*Aug. 14, 1744.*

“I was surprised, on Sunday, when you was pleased to tell me, I carried things to extremes, in denying the lawful pleasures in eating. I denied only self-indulgence in eating : all which I advance is, that he who will be Christ's disciple, must absolutely deny himself. It was once a great self-denial to me, not to go to a play, or to other diversions ; but this is now no self-denial to me at all ; so that if I was now called to deny myself in these things only, I might take up with what is passed, and now live an agreeable, self-indulgent life. But God forbid. I plainly see every hour produces occasions of self-pleasing : and this I apprehend is a sufficient call for and rule of self-denial. For instance : In the morning, it is a great self-denial to rise out of a warm bed ; but if I do not, I am immediately condemned as a slothful servant : if I do, I find a great inward blessing. Under the preaching, it is self-pleasing to see who is here, who there ; but if I do let my eye wander, I become cold and lifeless : if I deny myself, I often find even a present reward. In walking the streets, I can please myself by looking this way and that ; on this chariot, that house and picture : but if I deny myself for Christ's sake, his consolations abound with me.

“But I may deny myself outwardly, and yet be self-indulgent ; namely, by allowing myself in vain and trifling thoughts. Here is a continual fight, and a hard struggle I must have before I conquer : but when I do overcome, I lose nothing by it ; for my soul is delighted with secret refreshments.

“At noon, I may find many pleasant things ; and of this it was that I said to Mr. Richards, ‘If there are two dishes set before you, by the rule of self-denial, you ought to eat of that which you like the least.’ And this rule I desire to observe myself ; always to choose what is least pleasing and cheapest ; therefore I feed much upon milk : it is pleasant enough, and nothing I can find is so cheap. Whereas if one sort of food be dearer than another, and yet I use it, because more agreeable to my appetite, this I apprehend is directly contrary to the discipleship of a self-denying Master : and this kind of

self-indulgence (not in food only) is practised by too many that know the truth.

"I suppose, Sir, you now perceive, I do not condemn all pleasure in eating; but I condemn all self-indulgence, both in that and other things, particularly in talking. Many who think themselves believers, please themselves with talking more than is profitable. They talk even of the things of God, till they bring a deadness, nay, an unaccountable carelessness over their spirits. I don't say, they laugh or talk idly; but still they are not deeply serious, nor is their conversation truly solid; whereas I should think the conscience of a true believer is tender as the apple of an eye; and that to such an one it would be less pain to suffer the rack, than to trifle, either in word or deed."

Tues. 21. I set out with a few friends for Oxford. On Wednesday my brother met us from Bristol. Friday, 24th, St. Bartholomew's day, I preached, I suppose, the last time at St. Mary's; be it so; I am now clear of the blood of these men; I have fully delivered my own soul.

The Beadle came to me afterwards, and told me, "The Vice-Chancellor had sent him for my notes." I sent them without delay, not without admiring the wise providence of God. Perhaps few men of note would have given a sermon of mine the reading, if I had put it into their hands; but by this means it came to be read, probably more than once, by every man of eminence in the University.

I left Oxford about noon, preached at Wycombe in the evening, and on Saturday, 25th, returned to London.

* Sat. Sept. 1. I talked pretty largely with George Newans, the supposed Shropshire Prophet. I am inclined to think he believes himself; but I cannot believe God has sent him.

Wed. 5. One sent me word, "He had now found the right way of worshipping God; and, therefore, he must leave off prayer, and the rest of our will-worship, and join himself with the Quakers." However, in the evening, he ventured among us once more, and God smote him to the heart, so that he knew, and felt, and declared aloud, that he had no need of going elsewhere to find the power of God unto salvation.

Thur. 6. I committed to the dust the remains of

Elizabeth Marsh, a young woman who had received a sense of the pardoning love of God about four years before her death, and had never left her first love. She had scarce known health or ease from that hour; but she never murmured or repined at any thing. I saw her many times after she was confined to her bed, and found her always quiet and calm, always cheerful, praising God in the fires, though longing to depart and to be with Christ. I could not learn that her mind was ever clouded, no, not a moment, from the beginning of her illness; but a few days before she died, she told me, "I am concerned, I spoke a hasty word to-day. One told me, 'You shall recover within ten days;' and I said, 'I don't want to recover.'" A little before her speech failed, she beckoned one to her, and said, "Go and tell Molly Brown from me, she must come back to Mr. Wesley. I have not breath to speak to her myself, but do you tell her, she must come back." She had lost her voice when I prayed with her the last time, and commended her soul to God; but

"Her eye dropped sense, distinct and clear,
As any muse's tongue could speak."

It said, "To me, to die is gain; I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, and fear no evil."

I could only speak a few words at her grave; but when I returned to the Foundery, God made his word as a flame of fire. I spoke from that passage in the Revelation, "And one of the elders said unto me, What are these who are arrayed in white robes; and whence came they? And I said, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their garments, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

A young man, servant to Mrs. Clark, of Newington, went home deeply affected. The next day he was taken ill, and every day grew worse; so that when I came to the house on Monday, the 10th, (though I knew nothing of him or of his illness before,) he was just gasping for breath. It was a melancholy sight: both his words and his eyes "witnessed huge affliction and dismay;"—Death stared him in the face, and he knew not God. He could but just say, "For God's sake, pray for me."

John Nelson coming in, we asked life for our brother, in full confidence of the promise. All this day as his

illness so his terrors increased; but the next day God gave him life from the dead. He told me, "Now I am not afraid to die, for I know God loves me. I did not use to love you or your people, but now I love you as my own soul; I love you all, I know you are the people of God, and I am just going to Him." He continued praising God as long as he could speak; and when he could not, his eyes were fixed upwards. Between one and two on Wednesday morning he cried out, "I have lost my God! Where is He? I cannot see Him." But he soon recovered himself, and said, "Now I have found him, and shall lose him no more." About seven I prayed with him, and praised God on his behalf, and not long after he fell asleep.

Fri. 14. I performed the last office (according to his desire) over his body, which was interred in the presence of a vast multitude of people, at a small distance from that of Elizabeth Marsh.

Sun. 16. I buried, near the same place, one who had soon finished her course, going to God in the full assurance of faith, when she was little more than four years old. In her last sickness (having been deeply serious in her behaviour for several months before) she spent all the intervals of her convulsions in speaking of or to God; and when she perceived her strength to be near exhausted, she desired all the family to come near, and prayed for them all, one by one; then for her Ministers, for the Church, and for all the world. A short time after, recovering from a fit, she lifted up her eyes, said, "Thy kingdom come," and died.

All this summer, our brethren in the west had as hot service as those in the north of England; the war against the Methodists, so called, being every where carried on with far more vigour than that against the Spaniards. I had accounts of this from all parts; one of which was as follows :—

"REV. SIR,

"The word of God has free course here; it runs and is glorified: but the Devil rages horribly. Even at St. Ives, we cannot shut the doors of John Nance's house, to meet the Society, but the mob immediately threaten to break them open. They now triumph over us more and more, saying, 'It is plain, nothing can be done against

them.' And in other places it is worse. I was going to Crowan, on Tuesday was se'nnight. On the road two of our brothers met me. When we came within a mile of the house, we saw a great mob at some distance, but they were going another way. We then left our horses at the house of a friend, and went forward on foot. Within a quarter of a mile of the place where I was to preach, two persons met us, who used to be persecutors; but they now desired me, for God's sake, 'not to go up; for if I did, they said, there would surely be murder; if there was not already, for many were knocked down before they came away.'

"By their advice and the entreaties of those that were with me, I turned back to the house where we left our horses. We had been there but a short time, when many of the people came, being very bloody, and having been beaten very bad. But the main cry of the mob was after the Preacher, whom they sought for in every corner of the house, swearing bitterly, 'They only wanted to knock him on the head, and then they should be satisfied.'

"Not finding me there, they said, 'However, They should catch him on Sunday at Cambourn.' But it was Mr. Westell's turn to go thither on Sunday. While he was preaching there, at Mr. Harris's house, a tall man came in and pulled him down. Mr. Harris demanded his warrant. But he swore, 'Warrant, or no warrant, he should go with them;' so he carried him out to the mob, who took him away to the Church-Town. They kept him there till Tuesday morning, and then carried him to Penzance; where, in the afternoon, he was brought before three Justices, and asked abundance of questions, to which they required him to answer upon oath. Then Dr. Borlase wrote his mittimus, by virtue of which he was to be committed to the House of Correction at Bodmin as a vagrant. So they took him as far as Cambourn that night, and the next day on to Bodmin.

I desire your continual prayers for me,
Your weak servant in Christ,
HENRY MILLARD."

I pray, for what pay could we procure men to do this service? To be always ready to go to prison, or to death?

Henry Millard did not long continue therein. After he had for some time fought a good fight, he took the

small-pox, and in a few days joyfully resigned his spirit to God.

The Justices, who met at the next Quarter-Sessions at Bodmin, knowing a little more of the laws of God and man, declared Mr. Westell's commitment to be contrary to all law, and set him at liberty without delay.

Tues. Oct. 30. I was desired to call on a young gentlewoman dangerously ill; but I soon found she needed no physician for her soul, being full of righteousness and good works. However I spoke to her with all plainness, and she awoke as one out of sleep. She drank in every word, and soon perceived the want of a better righteousness than her own; but her companion sent her father word, and she was immediately removed, so that I saw her no more.

Sun. Nov. 4. Poor Richard Jeffs, who, in spite of his former conviction, was now determined to renounce us and join the Quakers, ventured, however, once more to the Lord's Table. He had no sooner received than he dropped down, and cried with a loud voice, "I have sinned, I have sinned against God." At that instant many were pierced to the heart. I could hardly speak for some time. Several mourners were filled with strong consolation, and all said, "Surely God is in this place!"

About this time I received a letter, dated from the camp at Lisle. Part of it ran as follows:—

"May 1. We marched to the camp, near Brussels; there a few of us joined into a Society, being sensible, where two or three are gathered together in his name, there is our Lord in the midst of them. Our place of meeting was a small wood near the camp. We remained in this camp eight days, and then removed to a place called Ask. Here I began to speak openly, at a small distance from the camp, just in the middle of the English army. And here it pleased God to give me some evidences that my labour was not in vain. We sung a hymn, which drew about two hundred soldiers together, and they all behaved decently. After I had prayed, I began to exhort them; and though it rained very hard, yet very few went away. Many acknowledged the truth, in particular a young man, John Greenwood by name, who has kept with me ever since, and whom God has lately been pleased to give me for a fellow-labourer. Our Society has now increased to

upwards of two hundred, and the hearers are frequently more than a thousand; although many say I am mad, and others have endeavoured to incense the Field-Marshal against us. I have been sent for and examined several times; but, blessed be God, He has always delivered me.

"Many of the officers have come to hear for themselves, often nine or ten at a time. I endeavoured to lose no opportunity. During our abode in the camp at Ask, I have preached thirty-five times in seven days. One of those times a soldier who was present, called aloud to his comrades to come away, and not hear that fool any longer. But it pleased God to send the word spoken to his heart; so that he roared out in the bitterness of his soul for a considerable time; and then He, who never fails those that seek Him, turned his heaviness into joy. He is now never so happy as when he is proclaiming the loving-kindness of God his Saviour.

"I was a little shocked at my first entrance on this great work, because I was alone, having none to help me; but the Lord helped me, and soon raised up William Clements, and, in June, John Evans, belonging to the train, to my assistance. Since we have been in this camp we have built two small tabernacles, in which we meet at eight in the morning, at three in the afternoon, and seven at night; and commonly two whole nights in each week.

"Since I began to write this we are come to our winter quarters, so that our Society is now parted; we are some in Bruges, some in Ghent; but it has pleased the Lord to leave neither without a teacher: for John Greenwood and I are in this city; and B. Clements and Evans are in Ghent. So that we trust our Lord will carry on his work in both places.

"We that are in Bruges have hired a small place, in which we meet, and our dear Lord is in the midst of us. Many times the tears run down every face, and joy reigns in every heart.

"I shall conclude with a full assurance of your prayers, with a longing desire to see you. O when will the joyful meeting be? Perhaps not on this side death. If not, my Master's will be done.

"Your unworthy brother in the Lord,

"J. H."

Sun. 11. In the evening I rode to Brentford. In the inn where I lodged the next night was a company of men exceeding drunk. Nature suggested, "Why should you speak to them? It will be, at best, labour lost; for you may be well assured, none of them will mind one word you say." However, we spoke a few words to them. One of them immediately rose up and said, "It was all true," followed us as well as he could into our room, and appeared deeply convinced and strongly desirous to serve a better Master.

Tues. 13. In the evening we reached Bath, and the next morning rode to Bristol. After spending a few days there and at Kingswood, on Saturday, 24th, I came again to London.

Sun. 25. I conversed with one who was greatly extolling the comfortable way in which the Brethren preach. I understood him well. One who was a believer falls into carelessness, or wilful sin; if he comes to hear our preaching then, we shake all his bones in pieces; if he comes to them, they stroke him and lull him asleep. O how does any backslider escape this comfortable preaching?

Sun. Dec. 2. I was with two persons who believe they are saved from all sin. Be it so or not, why should we not rejoice in the work of God, so far as it is unquestionably wrought in them? For instance, I ask John C., "Do you pray always? Do you rejoice in God every moment? Do you in every thing give thanks? in loss, in pain, in sickness, weariness, disappointments? Do you desire nothing? Do you fear nothing? Do you feel the love of God continually in your heart? Have you a witness in whatever you speak or do, that it is pleasing to God?" If he can solemnly and deliberately answer in the affirmative, why do I not rejoice and praise God on his behalf? Perhaps, because I have an exceeding complex idea of sanctification, or a sanctified man; and so, for fear he should not have attained all I include in that idea, I cannot rejoice in what he has attained.

After having often declared the same thing before many witnesses, this day Mr. Williams wrote a solemn retraction of the gross slanders he had been propagating for several months, concerning my brother and me. This he concluded in these words: "Though I doubt not but you can forgive me, yet I can hardly forgive myself: I have been so ungrateful and disobedient to the tenderest of friends,

who, through the power of God, were my succour in all my temptations.—

"I entreat your prayers in my behalf, that God may restore, strengthen, stablish, and settle me in the grace to which I have been called. That God may bless you and your dear brother, and that we may be all united again in one fellowship, is the prayer of him who, for the future, hopes to be

"Your obedient Son and Servant,

"For Christ's sake,

"THOMAS WILLIAMS."

Mon. 3. I answered another letter I had received from Flanders, an extract of which is here subjoined.

"REV. SIR,

"*Ghent, Nov. 12, O. S. 1744.*

"We made bold to trouble you with this, to acquaint you with some of the Lord's dealings with us here. We have hired two rooms, one small one, wherein a few of us meet every day at one o'clock; and another large one for public service, where we meet twice a day,—at nine in the morning and four in the afternoon; and the hand of the omnipotent God is with us, to the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan.

"The seventh instant, when we were met together in the evening, as I was at prayer, one that was kneeling by me cried out, (like a woman in travail,) 'My Redeemer! my Redeemer!' which continued about ten minutes. When he was asked what was the matter, he said, 'He had found that which he had often heard of, that is, an heaven upon earth;' and some others had much ado to forbear crying out in the same manner.

"Dear Sir, I am a stranger to you in the flesh. I know not if I have seen you above once, when I saw you preaching on Kennington-Common; and then I hated you as much as now (by the grace of God) I love you. The Lord pursued me with convictions from my infancy; and I often made abundance of good resolutions; but finding as often, that I could not keep them, (as being made wholly in my own strength,) I at length left off all striving, and gave myself over to all manner of lewdness and profaneness. So I continued for some years, till the battle of Dettingen. The balls came then very thick about me, and my comrades fell on every side; yet I was preserved

unhurt. A few days after this, the Lord was pleased to visit me again. The pains of hell gat hold upon me; the snares of death encompassed me. I durst no longer commit any outward sin, and I prayed God to be merciful to my soul. Now I was at a loss for books; but God took care for this also. One day, as I was at work, I found an old Bible in one of the train waggons. To read this, I soon forsook my old companions, all but one, who was still a thorn in my flesh; but, not long after, he sickened and died.

"My Bible was now my only companion; and I believed myself a very good Christian, till we came to winter-quarters, where I met with John Haime: but I was soon sick of his company; for he robbed me of my treasure; he stole away my gods, telling me, 'I and my works were going to hell together.' This was strange doctrine to me, who, being wholly ignorant of the righteousness of Christ, sought only to establish my own righteousness: and being naturally of a stubborn temper, my poor brother was so perplexed with me, that sometimes he was resolved (as he afterwards told me) to forbid my coming to him any more.

"When the Lord had at length opened my eyes, and shown me that 'by grace we are saved, through faith,' I began immediately to declare it to others, though I had not as yet experienced it myself. But, Oct. 23d, as William Clements was at prayer, I felt on a sudden a great alteration in my soul. My eyes overflowed with tears of love. I knew I was, through Christ, reconciled to God, which inflamed my soul with fervent love to Him, whom I now saw to be my complete Redeemer.

"O the tender care of Almighty God in bringing up his children! How are we bound to love so indulgent a Father, and to fall down in wonder and adoration of his great and glorious name, for his tender mercies!—Dear Sir, I beg you will pray for him who is not worthy to be a door-keeper to the least of my Master's servants.

"JOHN EVANS."

He continued both to preach and to live the Gospel till the battle of Fontenoy. One of his companions saw him there, laid across a cannon, both his legs having been taken off by a chain shot, praising God, and exhorting all that were round about him; which he did till his spirit returned to God.

Mon. 17. In the evening I rode to Brentford. Many poor wretches endeavoured to make a disturbance, just as I began to preach, and employed one of their number, one utterly void of shame, to lead the way; but he acted his part with so uncommon a degree both of impudence and dulness, that when I turned about and asked to whom he belonged, his companions were ashamed to own him: so some went away, and the rest stood still; and we had a quiet and comfortable hour.

Sun. 23. I was unusually lifeless and heavy, till the Love-Feast in the evening; when, just as I was constraining myself to speak, I was stopped whether I would or no; for the blood gushed out of both my nostrils, so that I could not add another word: but in a few minutes it stayed, and all our hearts and mouths were opened to praise God.

Yet the next day I was again as a dead man; but in the evening, while I was reading prayers at Snow's-Fields, I found such light and strength as I never remember to have had before. I saw every thought (as well as action or word) just as it was rising in my heart, and whether it was right before God, or tainted with pride or selfishness. I never knew before (I mean not as at this time) what it was "to be still before God."

Tues. 25. I waked, by the grace of God, in the same spirit; and about eight, being with two or three that believed in Jesus, I felt such an awe and tender sense of the presence of God as greatly confirmed me therein: so that God was before me all the day long. I sought and found Him in every place; and could truly say, when I lay down at night, "Now I have lived a day."

Thur. 27. I called on the Solicitor whom I had employed in the suit lately commenced against me in Chancery; and here I first saw that foul monster, a Chancery Bill! A scroll it was of forty-two pages, in large folio, to tell a story which needed not to have taken up forty lines! And stuffed with such stupid, senseless, improbable lies (many of them, too, quite foreign to the question) as, I believe, would have cost the compiler his life in any Heathen Court either of Greece or Rome. And this is equity in a Christian country! This is the English method of redressing other grievances!

I conclude this year with the extract of a letter which I received some weeks before.

"HONOURED SIR,

"I beg leave to give you a short account of my experience, from the time I can remember.

"In my childhood, confused convictions often passed through my mind; so that I almost always had the fear of God before my eyes, and a sense of his seeing me; and I frequently used to abstain from sin upon that account. When I did sin, I was immediately checked and grieved; so that I generally was serious, nothing like any of my other brothers, and was, on that account, esteemed a good child, and greatly caressed. I constantly said my prayers, and was much given to reading; but it was chiefly plays and romances, of which I was as fond as I was of cards, shows, races, feasts, and whatever are called innocent diversions. Yet even these were always a burden to me when over; so that I was forced to own, all these are vanity.

"At about sixteen I was sent to Yarmouth, where I fell twice or thrice into intemperance, for which I was severely reprov'd in my conscience; but I used to make up matters by going oftener to church: and having good health, and no care, I was generally easy in my mind, and gay, and jocose in my conversation.

"In this temper, after about six months, I returned home; but a severe temptation soon following, and a severe illness in my head, made me think more and more of what is beyond the grave; this also made me exceeding diligent in prayer, till God not only restored my bodily health, but also gave me power against my inward enemy, and peace to my troubled soul.

"In half a year after, I was called to London, where, for the first year, I had little religion left, only that I never missed church. But after I was settled, conviction began to revive, particularly for sins of omission. I prayed three times a day, and I was uneasy if I missed once. I read all books of religion that came in my way; and now, because I prayed and read so much, and went constantly to church, and sometimes to the Sacrament, I thought myself in a right good way. And yet I was continually uneasy, though I knew not why; till one day I light on Thomas à Kempis. The more I read, the more I liked it. I bought one of the books, and read it over and over. I was more convinced of sin than ever, and had more power against it. I forsook many things which I

allowed myself in before, though I still allowed myself to see a play once a month. But the last I saw, I felt hell in my conscience for a week after; so that I determined, even for ease, never to go again.

"I was now settled in the form of godliness, and I knew a little of the power of it, when I was pressed by a relation to pay him a visit at Oxford, which I did at Whitsuntide, 1742. But here I soon lost both power and form. I saw many places, was much in company, and grew more dead to the things of God, every day than other. I was truly glad to see London again; and the very first night began to consider, how I might recover my peace? But before I had executed any thing, I was seized with a fever. I looked up to God, but all was dark: with the trouble both of body and mind, I really thought I should have gone distracted: yet I was too self-righteous to beg for mere mercy. All my cry was, Lord, give me health, and I will obey thee.

"God did give me health, and I was more diligent than ever in going to church and Sacrament; insomuch that on a week day, I have gone four or five times to church in a day. Yet sin was my master, although every time I fell into it, I was condemned exceedingly. I began now to see, that my laughter and jesting were wrong. But I thought, if I left them, my friends would cast me off. So I went on, sinning against light, and never finding peace for one whole day together.

"One day, being in great trouble of mind, and thinking, Where shall I find a man who lives up to the rules given by Kempis? it came strongly into my mind, 'Go to the Foundry.' Immediately I went, but with fear and trembling. Here I continued a constant hearer for above two months, before I spoke to one person belonging to it, which I purposely abstained from, that I might the more exactly observe the whole behaviour, both of yourself, and those that heard you: and the more closely I examined, the more clearly I was convinced, 'These are the men I have been seeking so long.'

"At last I was admitted into the Society, and, after the usual trial, into the Bands. I was now continually walking upon the wings of love. The life and power of religion was all my talk. I was not ashamed to declare it before all men; for the candle of the Lord constantly shone upon my head.

"At present, I find my soul continually hungering and thirsting after the Spirit's indwelling in me. I often find a solid peace, a serious watchfulness, a presence of mind, never confused or hurried; a sweet communion with God, good-will toward all men, with much grief at their misery, but no fear. I can with unaccountable boldness, yet with meekness and love, reprove the most daring sinner; and the more I obey this spirit, the more of it I feel; the more sensible I am of my own weakness, and at the same time filled with praise and amazement, to feel my strength in the Lord.

"W. B."

Saturday, January 5, 1745. Desiring to see once more our old acquaintance, Mr. Gambold, my brother and I called at James Hutton's. We found there not him, but Mr. S., a new creature indeed! (though not in the Gospel sense;) so extremely gay, easy, unconcerned, that one of the primitive Christians, instead of supposing him to be at rest, as he termed it, "in the wounds of Jesus," would have judged he had never heard of his name, much less of taking up his cross daily.

I had often wondered at myself, (and sometimes mentioned it to others,) that ten thousand cares of various kinds were no more weight or burden to my mind, than ten thousand hairs were to my head. Perhaps I began to ascribe something of this to my own strength; and thence it might be, that on Sunday, 13th, that strength was withheld, and I felt what it was to be troubled about many things; one and another hurrying me continually, it seized upon my spirit more and more, till I found it absolutely necessary to fly for my life, and that without delay. So the next day, Monday, 14th, I took horse, and rode away for Bristol.

Between Bath and Bristol, I was earnestly desired to turn aside, and call at the house of a poor man, William Shalwood. I found him and his wife sick in one bed, and with small hopes of the recovery of either. Yet (after prayer), I believed they would "not die, but live, and declare the loving kindness of the Lord." The next time I called, he was sitting below stairs, and his wife able to go abroad.

As soon as we came into the house at Bristol, my soul was lightened of her load, of that insufferable weight which had lain upon my mind, more or less, for several days.

486 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

On Sunday several of our friends from Wales, and other parts, joined with us in the great sacrifice of thanksgiving. And every day we found more and more cause to praise God, and to give Him thanks for his still increasing benefits.

I found peculiar reason to praise God for the state of the Society, both in Bristol and Kingswood. They seemed at last clearly delivered from all vain jangling, from idle controversies, and strife of words, and determined not to know any thing save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Wed. Jan. 30. All our family were at St. James's, our parish church. At twelve we met together, to pour out our souls before God, and to provoke each other to love and to good works. The afternoon I set apart for visiting the sick. Blessed be God, this was a comfortable day.

Thur. 31. I rode to Coleford, about twenty (real, twelve computed) miles south-east from Bristol. The colliers here were only not as famous as those at Kingswood were formerly. I preached near the road-side; for the House could not contain a tenth part of the congregation. None opposed, or mocked, or smiled. Surely some of the seed is fallen upon good ground.

Mon. Feb. 4. I had the pleasure of receiving from Dr. Hartley, a particular account of Dr. Cheyne's last hours. During his last illness, he felt a gentle and gradual decay, so that he apprehended what the event would be; but it did not appear to give him any concern. He seemed quite loose from all below, till without any struggle, either of body or mind, he calmly gave up his soul to God.

Tues. 5. We set out early, and the next day at noon, met the little Society at Windsor. We called at Brentford likewise, and after a short stop, rode on and reached London in the evening.

Sun. 17. I laboured much with one of our brethren, whose eyes the Antinomians had just opened, and for the present he seemed to be convinced. But I doubt that conviction will not continue; it being not so easy to remove any one from that Gospel, which flesh and blood hath revealed unto them.

My exhorting the congregation here not to consult with flesh and blood, but to attend the morning preaching, occasioned my receiving the following letter:—

"DEAR SIR,

"For some time past I have been very negligent of coming in a morning, though I have been often severely reproved in my own mind for omitting that, which I knew was my duty both to God and my brethren; and from time to time, when you have exhorted us to partake of so useful a privilege, I have always been condemned.

"A few days ago I set myself to consider, whence this slackness must proceed; and I soon saw, the root of it was an evil heart of unbelief, departing from the living God, and therefore from his service. The pernicious branches of this I found to be ignorance and sloth. It was ignorance of myself that caused me to cry, 'Peace, peace; and to say within myself, I know enough, and am satisfied. And while I was in this state, pride, anger, lust, worldly-mindedness, levity, and carelessness towards God and man, successively got the dominion over me, so that I was no more like a Christian than like an angel. Yet I felt but little trouble for it, (save at times,) and thereby I sunk into a gulf of sloth, which got the dominion over me in such a manner, that I not only was content frequently to lie in bed till eight, but in the day time did not care to stir one step forward, especially if it was to visit the sick or distressed. I was forced to drag myself to and fro, and a heavy load I was to myself; and yet my eyes were so blinded, that I was scarce sensible of my sin. The cross I could hardly bear naming; for being so used to shun it at all times, it became a very harsh word to me, and I did not love to hear of it. But, glory be to God, ever since this examination, I have been a little stirred up; though still I am in danger of this evil or any other. Lord, leave me not; for without thee I can do nothing.

"I find whenever I know myself, poor, miserable, and blind, and foolish; and while I have a deep sense of my want of love, humility, meekness, seriousness, and wisdom, I then am in earnest in every duty, particularly rising in the morning. But when I am inwardly careless and proud, full and wise enough, then I can very quietly neglect not only this, but every help which God has given me.

"And yet (to speak the whole truth) I am apt to attribute some part of my late sloth and slackness, to too smooth a doctrine, which it seems to me has been lately preached among us: I thought the doctrine of perfection in all its parts, (perfect love, meekness, humility, resigna-

488 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

tion,) has not been so strenuously insisted on, as in times past, but only now and then mentioned in general terms; and hereby I was encouraged to be content in this groveling state, hanging between nature and grace, flesh and spirit. Then it was suggested, 'Laying in bed is not expressly forbidden in Scripture, nor is rising early expressly commanded.' Yet, glory be to God, I had power from Him to resist and overcome this thought; and being earnest with the Lord last night, this morning He did give me both a will and a power to break through, which I thankfully used, and came to meet my brethren at five, with primitive joy and satisfaction. "W. B."

Mon. 18. I set out with Richard Moss for Newcastle, Wednesday, 20th. Soon after we passed through Leicester, a gentleman of Leicester overtook us, and kept us company to Loughborough, dined with us there, then rode back to Leicester. His main business, I found, was to talk with me. He said, he had long been very low-spirited, had had the very best advice, and taken abundance of physic, and yet was as bad, or worse than ever. I explained his case to him at large, and advised him to apply to that Physician, who alone heals the broken in heart.

In the evening I preached to the little flock at Nottingham. Next day William Holmes met us at Doncaster, and piloted us through the mire, and water, and snow, lately fallen, to Sykehouse. Finding the congregation ready, I began preaching as soon as I came in, and exhorted them to follow after the great gift of God. Several from Epworth met us here, and we rejoiced unto God with reverence.

Fri. 22. There was so much snow about Boroughbridge, that we could go on but very slowly; insomuch that the night overtook us when we wanted six or seven miles to the place where we designed to lodge. But we pushed on at a venture across the Moor, and about eight came safe to Sandhutton.

Sat. 23. We found the roads abundantly worse than they had been the day before; not only because the snows were deeper, which made the causeways in many places impassable, (and turnpike roads were not known in these parts of England, till some years after,) but likewise because the hard frost, succeeding the thaw, had made all the ground like glass. We were often obliged to walk,

it being impossible to ride, and our horses several times fell down while we were leading them, but not once while we were riding them, during the whole journey. It was past eight before we got to Gateshead Fell, which appeared a great pathless waste of white. The snow filling up and covering all the roads, we were at a loss how to proceed, when an honest man of Newcastle overtook and guided us safe into the town.

Many a rough journey have I had before; but one like this I never had, between wind and hail, and rain, and ice, and snow, and driving sleet, and piercing cold: but it is passed: those days will return no more, and are therefore as though they had never been. •

“ Pain, disappointment, sickness, strife,
Whate'er molests or troubles life,
However grievous in its stay,
It shakes the tenement of clay;
When past, as nothing we esteem;
And pain, like pleasure, is a dream.”

On Monday and Tuesday, I diligently inquired, Who were offended at each other? This being the sin which of all others most easily besets the people of Newcastle. And as many of them as had leisure to meet, I heard face to face. It was now an easy thing to remove their offences; for God was in the work; so that they were, one and all, as willing to be reconciled to each other, as I was to have them.

February 27th, being Ash-Wednesday, after the public prayers, the little Church in our house met together. Misunderstandings were cleared up, and we all agreed to set out anew, hand in hand, and, by the grace of God, to forward one another in running the race which is set before us.

Sun. March 3. As I was walking up Pilgrim-Street, hearing a man call after me, I stood still. He came up and used much abusive language, intermixed with many oaths and curses. Several people came out to see what was the matter; on which he pushed me twice or thrice, and went away.

Upon inquiry, I found this man had signalized himself of a long season, by abusing and throwing stones at any of our family who went that way. Therefore I would not lose the opportunity, but, on Monday, 4th, sent him the following note:—

ROBERT YOUNG,

I EXPECT to see you between this and Friday, and to hear from you, that you are sensible of your fault; otherwise, in pity to your soul, I shall be obliged to inform the Magistrates of your assaulting me yesterday in the street.

I am

Your real Friend,

JOHN WESLEY.

Within two or three hours, Robert Young came, and promised a quite different behaviour. So did this gentle reproof, if not save a soul from death, yet prevent a multitude of sins.

Sun. 10. We had a useful sermon at All-Saints in the morning, and another at our own church in the afternoon. I was much refreshed by both, and united in love both to the two Preachers, and to the Clergy in general.

The next day I wrote to a friend as follows:—

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, March 11, 1745.

I HAVE been drawing up this morning a short state of the case between the Clergy and us. I leave you to make any such use of it as you believe will be to the glory of God.

1. About seven years since, we began preaching inward, present salvation, as attainable by faith alone.

2. For preaching this doctrine, we were forbidden to preach in the churches.

3. We then preached in private houses, as occasion offered; and when the houses could not contain the people, in the open air.

4. For this, many of the Clergy preached or printed against us, as both heretics and schismatics.

5. Persons who were convinced of sin begged us to advise them more particularly how to flee from the wrath to come. We replied, If they would all come at one time, (for they were numerous,) we would endeavour it.

6. For this, we were represented, both from the pulpit and the press, (we have heard it with our ears, and seen it with our eyes,) as introducing Popery, raising sedition, practising both against Church and State; and all manner of evil was publicly said both of us and those who were accustomed to meet with us.

7. Finding some truth herein, viz. That some of those

who so met together walked disorderly, we immediately desired them not to come to us any more.

8. And the more steady were desired to overlook the rest, that we might know if they walked according to the Gospel.

9. But now several of the Bishops began to speak against us, either in conversation or in public.

10. On this encouragement, several of the Clergy stirred up the people to treat us as outlaws or mad dogs.

11. The people did so, both in Staffordshire, Cornwall, and many other places.

12. And they do so still, wherever they are not restrained by their fear of the secular Magistrate.

Thus the case stands at present. Now, what can we do, or what can you our brethren do toward healing this breach, which is highly desirable, that we may withstand with joint force the still increasing flood of Popery, Deism, and immorality?

Desire of us any thing we can do with a safe conscience, and we will do it immediately. Will you meet us here? Will you do what we desire of you, so far as you can with a safe conscience?

Let us come to particulars. Do you desire us, 1. To preach another, or to desist from preaching this doctrine?

We think you do not desire it, as knowing we cannot do this with a safe conscience. Do you desire us, 2. To desist from preaching in private houses, or in the open air? As things are now circumstanced, this would be the same as desiring us not to preach at all.

Do you desire us, 3. To desist from advising those who now meet together for that purpose? Or, in other words, to dissolve our Societies?

We cannot do this with a safe conscience; for we apprehend many souls would be lost thereby, and that God would require their blood at our hands.

Do you desire us, 4. To advise them only one by one? This is impossible, because of their number.

Do you desire us, 5. To suffer those who walk disorderly still to mix with the rest?

Neither can we do this with a safe conscience; because "evil communications corrupt good manners."

Do you desire us, 6. To discharge those Leaders of Bands or Classes (as we term them) who overlook the rest?

This is, in effect, to suffer the disorderly walkers still to mix with the rest, which we dare not do.

Do you desire us, lastly, To behave with reverence toward those who are overseers of the Church of God, and with tenderness both to the character and persons of our brethren, the inferior Clergy?

By the grace of God, we can and will do this. Yea, our conscience beareth us witness, that we have already laboured so to do; and that at all times and in all places.

If you ask, What we desire of you to do? We answer, 1. We do not desire any one of you to let us preach in your church, either if you believe us to preach false doctrine, or if you have, upon any other ground, the least scruple of conscience concerning it. But we desire any who believes us to preach true doctrine, and has no scruple at all in this matter, may not be either publicly or privately discouraged from inviting us to preach in his church.

2. We do not desire that any one who thinks we are heretics or schismatics, and that it is his duty to preach or print against us as such, should refrain therefrom, so long as he thinks it is his duty: (although, in this case, the breach can never be healed.)

But we desire that none will pass such a sentence, till he has calmly considered both sides of the question: that he would not condemn us unheard, but first read what we have written, and pray earnestly that God may direct him in the right way.

3. We do not desire any favour, if either Popery, sedition, or immorality be proved against us.

But we desire you will not credit, without proof, any of those senseless tales that pass current with the vulgar: that, if you do not credit them yourselves, you will not relate them to others; (which we have known done;) yea, that you will confute them, so far as ye have opportunity, and discountenance those who still retail them abroad.

We do not desire any preferment, favour, or recommendation from those that are in authority, either in Church or State. But we desire,

1. That if any thing material be laid to our charge, we may be permitted to answer for ourselves. 2. That you would hinder your dependents from stirring up the rabble against us, who are certainly not the proper judges of these matters. And, 3. That you would effectually sup-

press and thoroughly discountenance all riots and popular insurrections, which evidently strike at the foundation of all government, whether of Church or State.

Now, these things you certainly can do, and that with a safe conscience. Therefore, till these things are done, the continuance of the breach is chargeable on you, and you only.

Sat. 16. I visited part of the sick; for I could not see them all in one day. I found many in heaviness, through various temptations, added to that of bodily pain; but none sorrowing as men without hope, though some deeply mourning after God.

The following week I visited the Societies in the country. On Thursday, 28th, a gentleman called at our house, who informed me his name was Adams; that he lived about forty miles from Newcastle, at Osmotherly, in Yorkshire, and had heard so many strange accounts of the Methodists, that he could not rest till he came to inquire for himself. I told him he was welcome to stay as long as he pleased, if he could live on our lenten fare. He made no difficulty of this, and willingly stayed till the Monday se'nnight following, when he returned home fully satisfied with his journey.

Saturday, April 6, Mr. Stephenson, of whom I bought the ground on which our House is built, came at length, after delaying it more than two years, and executed the writings. So I am freed from one more care. May I, in every thing, make known my request to God!

We met at four in the morning on Easter-Day, and great was our joy in the Lord. I preached on, "The Lord is risen indeed;" and at Southbiddick at seven o'clock. In the evening many of our brethren from all parts were present, and we again praised God with joyful lips.

Mon. 15. We met at half-hour past four, and the room was filled from end to end. Many of the rich and honourable were there; so that I found it was time for me to fly away. At eight I preached in the street at Chester, to a large and quiet congregation. At Darlington (it being the Fair-day) we could scarce find a place to hide our head. At length we got into a little inn, but were obliged to be in a room where there was another set of company, some of whom were cursing and swearing much. Before we went away, I stepped to them, and asked, "Do you

think yourselves that this kind of talking is right?" One of them warmly replied, "Sir, we have said nothing which we have need to be ashamed of." I said, "Have you not need to be ashamed of disobliging your best friend? And is not God the best friend you have?" They stared first at me, and then at one another; but no man answered a word.

In the evening I preached at the inn in Northallerton, where Mr. Adams and some of his neighbours met me. On his saying, "He wished I could have time to preach in his house, at Osmotherley;" I told him, "I *would* have time, if he desired it;" and ordered our horses to be brought out immediately. We came thither between nine and ten. It was about an hour before the people were gathered together. It was after twelve before I lay down; yet, (through the blessing of God,) I felt no weariness at all.

Tues. 16. I preached, at five, on Rom. iii. 22, to a large congregation, part of whom had sat up all night, for fear they should not wake in the morning. Many of them, I found, either were, or had been, Papists. O how wise are the ways of God! How am I brought, without any care or thought of mine, into the centre of the Papists in Yorkshire? O that God would arise and maintain his own cause! And all the idols let him utterly abolish!

After sermon an elderly woman asked me abruptly, "Dost thou think water baptism an ordinance of Christ?" I said, What saith Peter? "Who can forbid water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Ghost even as we?" I spoke but little more before she cried out, "'Tis right! 'Tis right! I will be baptized:" and so she was the same hour. About eight in the evening, I reached Sykehouse, and preached to a little company there.

Wed. 17. I rode by Epworth to Grimsby. The north-east wind was full in our face, and exceeding sharp. I began preaching before eight; but to such a congregation as I had not lately seen: so stupidly rude and noisy; encouraged thereto by their forespeaker, a drunken alehouse-keeper. I singled him out, and fastened upon him, till he chose to withdraw. The rest were soon calmed, and behaved very quietly till the service was ended.

Thur. 18. In the afternoon I rode to Hainton. Mr.

Clark, the Minister of Barksworth, a mile from thence, having several times sent word he should be glad to see me; I went to his house, and spent an agreeable hour, with an open hearted, friendly man, not strongly prepossessed, and, I believe, truly desirous to know the whole will of God.

Fri. 19. William Fenwick rode with me to L——d : the Minister of which had told him again and again, "Be sure to bring Mr. Wesley with you when he comes. It is for my soul; for the good of my poor soul." When we were alone, he told me, "Sir, I have read your writings; but I could not believe them till very lately. Now I know your doctrine is true: God himself has shown it me. A few days since I was in a great agony of soul, praying to God to forgive my sins; and there was such a light about me as I cannot express; and I knew God had heard my prayer; and my heart was filled with the love of God; and ever since I pray and praise him all day long."

I asked, If he had told this to any one else? He said, "I began to tell it to one I thought a very good Christian; but he seemed to think I was distracted; so I spoke no more: and indeed I do not know any that would hear me."

I told him, "You will meet with many such trials as this, and with many others, which you are not yet aware of." He answered, "I know that I cannot bear them of myself. I have no strength, unless I watch and pray always. But I *do* pray always. And what are trials to *me*? I am not in the world: I live in eternity: I cannot turn any way but I see God: He is with me continually, and on every side."

I found much comfort from this strong instance of the mercy of God; and so I did also from a letter, written by one of our Preachers, concerning whom I often feared I had laboured in vain. It ran in these words:—

"DEAR SIR,

"I ~~AM~~ fully convinced, your fear concerning me proceeds entirely from your love to my soul; therefore I should think myself guilty of the greatest ingratitude if I did not endeavour to make a proper use of your kind reproof.

• "I know my soul has not prospered. I know my conversation has not always been as in the presence of God.

I know I have not been, nor yet am, as I desire to be, a serious, lowly follower of Jesus Christ. I have not been so exemplary in my behaviour as was consistent with the important work wherein I was employed. But, dear Sir, let me beseech you, in God's name, tell me, Do you really think, that instead of profiting, I destroy others? That so by desisting to preach, I may perish alone, and not the people perish with me. O, Sir, shall I be an instrument, in the Devil's hand, to destroy the souls for which Christ died? O that my tongue may cleave to the roof of my mouth, rather than I should continue to do this great evil! O Lord, be merciful unto me, and forgive my sin, for it is great!

"I am not guiltless; but, blessed be God, I have lately discovered, or rather felt many things which were hindrances of the work of God in my soul. I saw them before; but I saw in vain. I was not restless to be delivered from them, and therefore they still continued as so many insurmountable barriers in my way. I have been lately in great trouble of mind; the reproofs I received, putting me upon a narrow self-examination, I soon found many things wrong, and they lay so heavy upon me, that I went mourning all the day long. God only knows the uneasiness I felt: but, blessed be God, He did not leave me in distress, but in the midst of trouble sent me comfort. O may my soul for ever praise Him!

"I have long been in a kind of dead and lifeless state, having lost those pleasing tastes of God's love I once enjoyed. I have not been able to find any delight in prayer; nor could I pray from my heart. If I forced myself to pray, (for it was a grievous cross,) shame covered my face, and I durst scarce lift up my eyes, conscious of my own unfaithfulness to God, and my negligence in watching: all intercourse was stopped between God and my soul. Indeed when I have been praying with or speaking to others, I have often found the Spirit of God enlivening my own soul; but when I came before God in secret, intending to pour out my complaint before Him, my mouth hath been stopped, and the Devil presently whispered, 'What profit is it that you pray?' If I persevered notwithstanding, my mind has been filled with a thousand impertinent thoughts, so that I was either forced from my knees, or could only sigh or groan underneath my misery: my heart seemed harder and harder, so

that I verily thought I should at length become a cast-away.

"But, blessed be God, I have, for some time, found a revival of love, and have had more communion with God than for a long season. O may it be my constant care to watch and pray, the neglect of which was the chief cause of my former deadness. The levity and inconstancy of mind which used to oppress me, I find greatly taken away; and, at present, (God grant it may always continue,) the remembrance of them is grievous to me. I often find great sweetness in my soul, and can weep for my past ingratitude to God. O pray for me, dear Sir, if you love me, that I may never more resist his grace!

"I cannot tell you how much I think myself obliged to you, under God, for all your care, reproofs, and kindnesses. May God reward you! and may I never, never make an ill use of them; but love and reverence you, and praise God for his love, in making you an happy instrument of good to my soul.

"T. M—ck."

I rode to Epworth in the afternoon. Sunday, 21st, I preached in the House at five, on, "Quench not the Spirit:" about eight, at the Cross; and again in the evening, to most of the adults in the town. Poor Mr. R.'s Sermon, from begining to end, was another railing accusation. Father, forgive him; for he knoweth not what he doeth!

Mon. 22. I rode with William Holmes to Norton, and after preaching there to a small company, went on to Oulton, three miles from Leeds, where a numerous congregation was waiting. On Tuesday I preached at Leeds, Armley, and Birstal. The next evening I was constrained to continue my discourse there, near an hour longer than usual; God pouring out such a blessing, that I knew not how to leave off.

Thur. 25. I preached at Horton and Bradford. Here I could not but observe, how God has made void all their labour, who "make void the law through faith." Out of their large Societies in these towns, how small a remnant is left! In Horton, scarce ten persons out of fourscore; in Bradford, not one soul.

Friday and Saturday, at John Bennet's request, I preached at several places in Lancashire and Cheshire.

Sun. 28. I preached at five, (as I had done over-night,)

about a mile from Altringham, on, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." A plain man came to me afterward and said, "Sir, I find Mr. Hutchings and you do not preach the same way. You bid us read the Bible, and pray, and go to church; but he bids us let all this alone, and says, "If we go to church and Sacrament, we shall never come to Christ."

At nine I preached near Stockport, to a large congregation; thence we rode to Bongs, in Derbyshire, a lone house, on the side of a high, steep mountain, whither abundance of people were got before us. I preached on God's justifying the ungodly; and his word was as dew upon the tender herb. At five I preached at Mill-Town, near Chapel-in-the-Frith. The poor miller, near whose pond we stood, endeavoured to drown my voice, by letting out the water, which fell with a great noise. But it was labour lost; for my strength was so increased, that I was heard to the very skirts of the congregation.

Mon. 29. I preached at Taddington, in the Peak, and rode from thence to Sheffield, where I preached on the floor of the late house, (which the good Protestant mob had just pulled down,) to the largest and one of the quietest congregations I ever remember to have seen there.

Tues. 30. I preached at Barley-Hall, and Wednesday, May 1, at Nottingham.

Thur. 2. I rode to Markfield. The church was full, though the notice was so short. But I was sorry to hear, some of the neighbouring churches are likely to be empty enough; for the still brethren I found had spread themselves into several of the adjacent parishes. And the very first sins their hearers leave off are reading the Bible, and running to the church and Sacrament.

Fri. 3. In the evening we came to Wednesbury. A while ago the waves here were "mighty, and raged horribly. But the Lord that dwelleth on high is mightier," and has stilled the madness of the people. I preached at seven without any noise or hinderance at all. All was equally quiet on Saturday.

Sun. 5. The number of people even at five obliged me to preach abroad. About one I preached at Tipton-Green, and about four at Wednesbury. A few persons at first threw some clods: but they were quickly glad to retreat: so that there was no interruption at all while I applied

those gracious words of our Lord: "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

I made haste from hence to Goston's-Green, near Birmingham, where I had appointed to preach at six. But it was dangerous for any who stood to hear; for the stones and dirt were flying from every side, almost without intermission, for near an hour. However, very few persons went away. I afterwards met the Society, and exhorted them, in spite of men and devils, to continue in the grace of God.

Mon. 6. I dined at Studley, where a poor man was swearing almost at every sentence. I asked him, "If he thought that was well done?" And began to tell him, how God loved him. He got up as in amaze, made many bows, said, "I ask pardon, Sir, of God and you; and hope it will be a warning to me all the days of my life."

In the evening I preached at Evesham. The next day Mr. Taylor of Quinton came, who, on Wednesday, 8th, rode with us to Oxford. I cannot spend one day here, without heaviness in my heart, for my brethren's sake. O God, when wilt thou show these, who say they are rich, that they are poor, and miserable, and blind, and naked?

Fri. 10. I preached at High-Wycombe, in an open place, to a mixed multitude: some of whom were as rude as they dared to be, having none of the great vulgar to set them on.

Sat. 11. I came to London. The sower of tares, I found, had not been idle, but shaken many, and moved some from their steadfastness, who once seemed to be pillars. The next week, finding no other way to convince some who were hugely in love with that solemn trifle, my brother and I were at the pains of reading over Robert Barclay's Apology with them. Being willing to receive the light, their eyes were opened. They saw his nakedness and were ashamed.

Thur. 23. We had one more conversation with one that had often strengthened our hands; but now earnestly exhorted us, (What is man!) "To return to the Church; to renounce all our lay-assistants; to dissolve our Societies; to leave off field-preaching, and to accept of honourable preferment!"

Wed. 29. I talked at large with Howel Harris, not yet carried away by the torrent of Antinomianism. But how

long will he be able to stand? Only till he consents to stand neuter. When he is brought, not to oppose, he will quickly yield.

I would wish all to observe, that the points in question between us and either the German or English Antinomians are not points of opinion, but of practice. We break with no man for his opinion. We think and let think. I cannot better express my sense of this, than it is done by a serious man in the following letter :—

“DEAR SIR,

“I OUGHT to have mentioned sooner my receiving yours, concerning Mr. Edwards of New England. Mr. Robe is of his opinion as to the thing, (the doctrine of particular redemption,) but not as to the absolute necessity of believing either the one or the other side of the question. And it is the maintaining the necessity of his side of the question, which you justly blame. For the same reason I suppose you would blame the maintaining the necessity of your side of the question. On whatsoever side of the question one be, I apprehend this mistake of the necessity of it proceeds from what Mr. Locke calls, ‘The association of ideas.’ People long accustomed to explain the essential things of Christianity, in such a particular way, and never having observed how they can be explained in any other, transfer their zeal for these essential things to their own way of explication; and believe there is a necessary connexion between them, when in fact there is not. This has produced many mischiefs and animosities, among all sorts of people. I would take my ground to stand on for clearing this, on what you say in the same letter to me: ‘Whosoever agrees with us in that account of practical religion given in “The Character of a Methodist,” I regard not what his other opinions are, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother. I am more assured that love is of God, than that any opinion whatsoever is so. Herein may we increase more and more.’

“I have often thought since I was favoured with that letter, how far it natively and clearly went, as to many things that occasion contentions and schisms, even among real Christians; and what, as it natively and clearly follows from this principle, our practice ought to be.

“One effect of this has been, to make me think I have not yet met with any set of people, whose practice is not,

in several remarkable particulars, inconsistent with this good principle. But I will not suffer myself to be fully persuaded of this as to one set of men, till I have the happiness to meet with your brother and you, and talk over some particulars, which you will allow me calmly and impartially to lay before you. May the Holy Ghost lead you into all truth, and into every right way.

"As to outward communion with those in whom your characteristic is found,—

"1. Is it not our duty and theirs, to keep that communion together, as far as we can without sin? And, except in that case, is not separating from each other, even in outward communion, a sin? Consequently, is it not a sin in any of us, to set out outward communion on such a foot, that others who have this characteristic cannot join in that communion without sin in them? Is it not also our duty not to stumble them, by our way of insisting on our particular opinions? And is it not a sin in them, to be easily stumbled at us on that account?

"2. Is it not far wrong in any of us to teach our particular opinions, (especially to those whom we are to instruct in the essentials of religion,) so as to lead them into such an association of ideas between these essentials and those opinions, which want of judgment, narrowness of thought, and impatience of spirit, are so apt to lead even the strong into? Do we not often see, how almost incurably this prejudices the weak against their brethren in Christ, and perplexes their minds about those opinions, and takes them off from the serious consideration of the essentials? Nay, have we not seen even the strong in grace, as well as learning, mistake the Lord's shining on their souls, on account of their receiving and applying the essentials, for an approbation of their particular opinions? And have we not seen such hereby led to bear persecution from, and in their turn to inflict it on their brethren? Almost every one cries out against this spirit of persecution. But few seem to dive into the causes of it: and fewer still heartily seek after and follow the effectual cure. And therefore,

"3. Is it not the duty both of Ministers and of private Christians, in their several stations, to show that our particular opinions are not so important, but that one in whom the grand characteristic is found, may hold different, nay contrary opinions? Is it not the duty of all,

in their respective stations, to prevent or dissolve that groundless association of ideas? And is not the quite contrary done by almost all? Do they not proceed, as if they were rather desirous to establish (not dissolve) that association of ideas, in favour of their own particular opinions? And thereby (though perhaps their own hearts hide it from them) to establish their party, and fix their adherents unto them?

"4. Since, as you justly say, 'We are more sure that love is of God than that any opinion whatsoever is so,' is it not our duty to follow that love with all our brethren in Christ, and the native consequence of it, outward communion? So far, I mean, as that communion does not imply our owning as true an opinion which we do not believe to be so. And yet,

"5. When one is a member of a community, where many are extremely bigoted to their own opinions; in such a case, may not outward communion with our other brethren in Christ be kept in some instances and not in others? But still, is it not our duty to use all our prudence and diligence, to bring all the Lord's people from this bigotry into that dear, mutual, universal love, and that actual communion which is the native consequence of it?

"James Erskine."

Sunday, June 9. In the evening I rode to Colebrook; on Monday to Marlborough; and on Tuesday to Bristol. The Antinomians had taken true pains here also, to seduce those who were showing their faith by their works; but they had reaped little fruit of their bad labour: for, upon the most diligent inquiry, I could not find that seven persons out of seven hundred had been turned out of the old Bible-way.

We left Bristol early on Friday, 14th, and on Sunday morning reached St. Ginnys. The church was moderately filled with serious hearers; but few of them appeared to feel what they heard. I preached both morning and afternoon, and on Monday evening; and many assented to and approved of the truth.

Tues. 18. Being invited by the Rector of St. Mary Week, (about seven miles from St. Ginnys,) to preach in his church, we went thither in the afternoon. I had not seen in these parts of Cornwall either so large a church, or so large a congregation. Thence we rode to Lanest,

where Mr. Bennet read prayers, and I preached on, "The redemption that is in Jesus Christ."

Wed. 19. Tresmere church was filled within and without, while I preached on Rom. iv. 7. Here I took leave of a poor, mad, original enthusiast, who had been scattering abroad lies in every quarter. In the evening Mr. Thompson and Shepherd rode with me to St. Eath, and the next day to Redruth.

Being informed here of what had befallen Mr. Maxfield, we turned aside toward Crowan Church-town; but in the way we received information that he had been removed from thence the night before. It seems, the valiant constables who guarded him, having received timely notice that a body of five hundred Methodists were coming to take him away by force, had with great precipitation carried him two miles further, to the house of one Henry Tomkins.

Here we found him, nothing terrified by his adversaries. I desired Henry Tomkins to show me the warrant. It was directed by Dr. Borlase, and his father, and Mr. Eustick, to the Constables and Overseers of several parishes, requiring them to apprehend all such able-bodied men as had no lawful calling or sufficient maintenance; and to bring them before the aforesaid gentlemen at Marazion, on Friday, 21st, to be examined whether they were proper persons to serve his Majesty in the land-service.

It was indorsed (by the steward of Sir John St. Aubin) with the names of seven or eight persons, most of whom were well known to have lawful callings, and a sufficient maintenance thereby. But that was all one: they were called Methodists; therefore soldiers they must be. Underneath was added, "A person, his name unknown, who disturbs the peace of the parish."

A word to the wise! The good men easily understood this could be none but the Methodist Preacher; for who "disturbs the peace of the parish" like one who tells all drunkards, whoremongers, and common swearers, "You are in the high road to hell?"

When we came out of the house, forty or fifty myrmidons stood ready to receive us; but I turned full upon them, and their courage failed: nor did they recover till we were at some distance. Then they began blustering again, and throwing stones, one of which struck Mr. Thompson's servant.

Fri. 21. We rode to Marazion : (vulgarly called Market-jew.) Finding the Justices were not met, we walked up St. Michael's Mount. The house at the top is surprisingly large and pleasant. Sir John St. Aubin had taken much pains, and been at a considerable expense, in repairing and beautifying the apartments; and when the seat was finished, the owner died !

About two Mr. Thompson and I went into the room, where the Justices and Commissioners were. After a few minutes, Dr. Borlase stood up, and asked, "Whether we had any business?" I told him, "We have: we desired to be heard concerning one who was lately apprehended at Crôwan." He said, "Gentlemen, the business of Crowan does not come on yet. You shall be sent for when it does." So we retired, and waited in another room till after nine o'clock. They delayed the affair of Mr. Maxfield (as we imagined they would) to the very last. About nine he was called. I would have gone in then; but Mr. Thompson advised to wait a little longer. The next information we received was, that they had sentenced him to go for a soldier. Hearing this, we went straight to the commission-chamber; but the honourable gentlemen were gone.

They had ordered Mr. Maxfield to be immediately put on board a boat, and carried for Penzance. We were informed they had first offered him to the captain of a man of war, that was just come into the harbour: but he answered, "I have no authority to take such men as these, unless you would have me give him so much a week, to preach and to pray to my people."

Sat. 22. We reached St. Ives about two in the morning. At five I preached on, "Love your enemies;" and at Gwenap, in the evening, on, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

We heard to-day, that as soon as Mr. Maxwell came to Penzance, they put him down into the dungeon; and that the Mayor being inclined to let him go, Dr. Borlase had gone thither on purpose, and had himself read the Articles of War in the Court, and delivered him to one who was to act as an officer.

Sun. 23. I preached in Gwenap at five, and about eight at Stithians, to a large and quiet congregation. Thence we went to Wendron church. At two I preached a mile and a half from the church, under a large, shady tree, on

part of the Epistle for the day, "Marvel not, if the world hate you." At five I began at Crowan, the head-quarters of the people that delight in war. While I was expounding part of the second morning lesson, Capt. R——ds came with a party of men ready for battle; but their master riding away in two or three minutes, their countenances quickly fell. One and another stole off his hat, till they were all uncovered; nor did they either move or speak till I had finished my discourse.

We rode hence to St. Ives, where, Monday, 24th, I preached at five, on, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." As we returned from church at noon, a famous man of the town attacked us, for the entertainment of his masters. I turned back and spoke to him, and he was ashamed. In the afternoon, as I was walking over the Market-Place, he just put out his head; but after one scream, ran back into the house with great precipitation. We expected a visit in the evening from some of the Devil's drunken companions, who swarm here on a holyday, so called; but none appeared: so, after a comfortable hour, we praised God, and parted in peace.

Tues. 25. We rode to St. Just. I preached at seven to the largest congregation I have seen since my coming. At the Meeting of the earnest, loving Society, all our hearts were in a flame: and again at five in the morning, while I explained, "There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."

When the preaching was ended, the Constable apprehended Edward Greenfield, (by warrant from Dr. Borlase,) a tinner, in the forty-sixth year of his age, having a wife and seven children. Three years ago he was eminent for cursing, swearing, drunkenness, and all manner of wickedness; but those old things had been for some time passed away, and he was then remarkable for a quite contrary behaviour.

I asked a little gentleman at St. Just, "What objection there was to Edward Greenfield?" He said, "Why, the man is well enough in other things; but his impudence the gentlemen cannot bear. Why, Sir, he says, he knows his sins are forgiven!"—And for this cause he is adjudged to banishment, or death!

I preached at Morva and Zunnor, in my return to St. Ives.

506 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Fri. 28. Mr. Thompson and Bennet returned home.

Sat. 29. I preached at St. Just again, and at Morva and Zunnor on Sunday, 30th. About six in the evening, I began preaching at St. Ives, in the street, near John Nance's door. A multitude of people were quickly assembled, both high and low, rich and poor, and I observed not any creature to laugh or smile, or hardly move hand or foot. I expounded the Gospel for the day, beginning with, "Then drew near all the publicans and sinners for to hear him." A little before seven came Mr. Edwards from the Mayor, and ordered one to read the proclamation against riots. I concluded quickly after; but the body of the people appeared utterly unsatisfied, not knowing how to go away. Forty or fifty of them begged they might be present at the meeting of the Society; and we rejoiced together for an hour in such a manner as I had never known before in Cornwall.

Tues. July 2. I preached in the evening at St. Just. I observed not only several gentlemen there, who I suppose never came before, but a large body of tinnerns, who stood at a distance from the rest, and a great multitude of men, women, and children, beside, who seemed not well to know why they came. Almost as soon as we had done singing, a kind of gentlewoman began. I have seldom seen a poor creature take so much pains. She scolded and screamed, and spit, and stamped, and wrung her hands, and distorted her face and body all manner of ways. I took no notice of her at all, good or bad: nor did almost any one else. Afterwards I heard she was one that had been bred a Papist; and when she heard we were so, rejoiced greatly. No wonder she should be proportionably angry, when she was disappointed of her hope.

Mr. Eustick, a neighbouring gentleman, came, just as I was concluding my sermon. The people opening to the right and left, he came up to me and said, "Sir, I have a warrant from Dr. Borlase, and you must go with me." Then turning round, he said, "Sir, are you Mr. Shepherd? If so, you are mentioned in the warrant too. Be pleased, Sir, to come with me." We walked with him to a public house, near the end of the town. Here he asked me, if I was willing to go with him to the Doctor? I told him, Just then, if he pleased. "Sir," said he, "I must wait upon you to your inn; and in the morning, if you will

be so good as to go with me, I will show you the way." So he handed me back to my inn, and retired.

Wed. 3. I waited till nine, but no Mr. Eustick came. I then desired Mr. Shepherd to go and inquire for him at the house wherein he had lodged; *si forte edormisset hoc villi*: he met him coming, as he thought, to our inn. But after waiting some time, we inquired again, and learned he had turned aside to another house in the town. I went thither and asked, "Is Mr. Eustick here?" After some pause, one said, "Yes;" and showed me into the parlour. When he came down, he said, "O Sir, will you be so good as to go with me to the Doctor's." I answered, "Sir, I came for that purpose." "Are you ready, Sir?" I answered, "Yes." "Sir, I am not quite ready. In a little time, Sir, in a quarter of an hour, I will wait upon you. I will come to William Chenhall's." In about three quarters of an hour he came, and finding there was no remedy, he called for his horse, and put forward towards Dr. Borlase's house. But he was in no haste; so that we were an hour and a quarter riding three or four measured miles. As soon as we came into the yard, he asked a servant, "Is the Doctor at home?" upon whose answering, "No, Sir; he is gone to church:" he presently said, "Well, Sir, I have executed my commission. I have done, Sir; I have no more to say."

About noon Mr. Shepherd and I reached St. Ives: after a few hours' rest, we rode to Gwenap. Finding the house would not contain one fourth of the people, I stood before the door. I was reading my text, when a man came, raging as if just broke out of the tombs; and riding into the thickest of the people, seized three or four, one after another, none lifting up a hand against him. A second (gentleman, so called) soon came after, if possible more furious than he; and ordered his men to seize on some others, Mr. Shepherd in particular. Most of the people, however, stood still as they were before, and began singing an hymn. Upon this Mr. B. lost all patience, and cried out with all his might, "Seize him, seize him. I say, Seize the Preacher for his Majesty's service." But no one stirring, he rode up and struck several of his attendants, cursing them bitterly for not doing as they were bid. Perceiving still that they would not move, he leaped off his horse, swore he would do it himself, and caught hold of my cassock, crying, "I take you to serve

his Majesty." A servant taking his horse, he took me by the arm, and we walked arm in arm for about three quarters of a mile. He entertained me all the time with the "wickedness of the fellows belonging to the Society." When he was taking breath, I said, "Sir, be they what they will, I apprehend it will not justify you in seizing me in this manner, and violently carrying me away, as you said, to serve his Majesty." He replied, "I seize you! And violently carry you away! No, Sir, no. Nothing like it. I asked you to go with me to my house, and you said you was willing; and if so, you are welcome; and if not, you are welcome to go where you please." I answered, "Sir, I know not if it would be safe for me to go back through this rabble." "Sir, (said he,) I will go with you myself." He then called for his horse, and another for me, and rode back with me to the place from whence he took me.

Thur. 4. I rode to Falmouth. About three in the afternoon I went to see a gentlewoman who had been long indisposed. Almost as soon as I was set down the house was beset on all sides by an innumerable multitude of people. A louder or more confused noise could hardly be at the taking of a city by storm. At first Mrs. B. and her daughter endeavoured to quiet them. But it was labour lost. They might as well have attempted to still the raging of the sea. They were soon glad to shift for themselves, and leave K. E. and me to do as well as we could. The rabble roared with all their throats, "Bring out the Canorum! Where is the Canorum?" (an unmeaning word, which the Cornish generally use instead of Methodist.) No answer being given, they quickly forced open the outer door, and filled the passage. Only a wainscot-partition was between us, which was not likely to stand long. I immediately took down a large looking-glass which hung against it, supposing the whole side would fall in at once. When they began their work, with abundance of bitter imprecations, poor Kitty was utterly astonished, and cried out, "O Sir, what must we do?" I said, "We must pray." Indeed at that time, to all appearance, our lives were not worth an hour's purchase. She asked, "But, Sir, is it not better for you to hide yourself? To get into the closet?" I answered, "No: It is best for me to stand just where I am." Among those without were the crews of some privateers, which were

lately come into the harbour. Some of these, being angry at the slowness of the rest, thrust them away, and coming up all together, set their shoulders to the inner door, and cried out, "Avast, lads, avast!" Away went all the hinges at once, and the door fell back into the room. I stepped forward at once into the midst of them, and said, "Here I am. Which of you has any thing to say to me? To which of you have I done any wrong? To you? Or you? Or you?" I continued speaking till I came, bareheaded as I was, (for I purposely left my hat, that they might all see my face,) into the middle of the street; and then raising my voice, said, "Neighbours, countrymen! Do you desire to hear me speak?" They cried vehemently, "Yes, yes. He shall speak. He shall. Nobody shall hinder him." But having nothing to stand on, and no advantage of ground, I could be heard by few only. However, I spoke without intermission, and, as far as the sound reached, the people were still: till one or two of their captains turned about and swore, "Not a man should touch him." Mr. Thomas, a Clergyman, then came up, and asked, "Are you not ashamed to use a stranger thus?" He was soon seconded by two or three gentlemen of the town, and one of the Aldermen; with whom I walked down the town, speaking all the time, till I came to Mrs. Maddern's house. The gentlemen proposed sending for my horse to the door, and desired me to step in and rest the mean time. But on second thoughts, they judged it not advisable to let me go out among the people again. So they chose to send my horse before me to Penryn, and to send me thither by water; the sea running close by the back-door of the house in which we were.

I never saw before, no, not at Walsal itself, the hand of God so plainly shown as here. There I had many companions, who were willing to die with me; here not a friend, but one simple girl, who likewise was hurried away from me in an instant, as soon as ever she came out of Mrs. B.'s door. There I received some blows, lost part of my clothes, and was covered over with dirt. Here, although the hands of perhaps some hundreds of people were lifted up to strike or throw, yet they were one and all stopped in the mid-way, so that not a man touched me with one of his fingers; neither was any thing thrown from first to last; so that I had not even

a speck of dirt on my clothes. Who can deny that God heareth the prayer, or that he hath all power in heaven and earth?

I took boat at about half an hour past five. Many of the mob waited at the end of the town, who seeing me escaped out of their hands, could only revenge themselves with their tongues; but a few of the fiercest ran along the shore, to receive me at my landing. I walked up the steep narrow passage from the sea, at the top of which the foremost man stood. I looked him in the face, and said, "I wish you a good night." He spake not, nor moved hand or foot till I was on horseback. Then he said, "I wish you was in hell," and turned back to his companions.

As soon as I came within sight of Tolcarn, (in Wendron parish,) where I was to preach in the evening, I was met by many, running as it were for their lives, and begging me to go no further. I asked, "Why not?" They said, "The Churchwardens and Constables, and all the heads of the Parish, are waiting for you at the top of the hill, and are resolved to have you: they have a special warrant from the Justices met at Helston, who will stay there till you are brought." I rode directly up the hill, and observing four or five horsemen, well dressed, went straight to them and said, "Gentlemen, has any of you any thing to say to me? I am John Wesley." One of them appeared extremely angry at this, that I should "presume to say, I was Mr. John Wesley." And I know not how I might have fared, for advancing so bold an assertion, but that Mr. Collins, the Minister of Redruth, (accidentally, as he said,) came by. Upon his accosting me, and saying, "He knew me at Oxford," my first antagonist was silent, and a dispute of another kind began: "Whether this preaching had done any good?" I appealed to matter of fact. He allowed, (after many words,) "People are the better for the present;" but added, "To be sure, by and by they will be as bad, if not worse, than ever."

When he rode away, one of the gentlemen said, "Sir, I would speak with you a little: let us ride to the gate." We did so, and he said, "Sir, I will tell you the ground of this. All the gentlemen of these parts say, that you have been a long time in France and Spain, and are now sent hither by the Pretender; and that these Societies are

to join him." Nay, surely, all the gentlemen in these parts will not lie against their own conscience!

I rode hence to a friend's house, some miles off, and found the sleep of a labouring man is sweet. I was informed there were many here also who had an earnest desire to hear "this preaching." But they did not dare. Sir—V—n having solemnly declared, nay, and that in the face of the whole congregation, as they were coming out of church, "If any man of this parish dares hear these fellows, he shall not—come to my Christmas-feast!"

Fri. 5. As we were going to Trezilla, (in Gulval parish,) several met us in a great consternation, and told us, the Constables and Churchwardens were come, and waited for us. I went straight on, and found a serious congregation, but neither Churchwarden nor Constable, nor any creature to molest us, either at the preaching or at the meeting of the Society. After so many storms, we now enjoyed the calm, and praised God from the ground of the heart.

Sat. 6. I rode with Mr. Shepherd to Gwenap. Here also we found the people in the utmost consternation. Word was brought that a great company of tinnerns, made drunk on purpose, were coming to do terrible things. I laboured much to compose their minds; but fear had no ears, so that abundance of people went away. I preached to the rest, on, "Love your enemies." The event showed this also was a false alarm, an artifice of the Devil, to hinder men from hearing the word of God.

Sun. 7. I preached, at five, to a quiet congregation; about eight, at Stithians. Between six and seven in the evening we came to Tolcarn. Hearing the mob was rising again, I began preaching immediately. I had not spoke a quarter of an hour before they came in view. One Mr. Trounce rode up first, and began speaking to me, wherein he was roughly interrupted by his companions. Yet, as I stood on a high wall, and kept my eyes upon them, many were softened, and grew calmer and calmer; which some of their champions observing, went round and suddenly pushed me down. I lighted on my feet, without any hurt, and finding myself close to the warmest of the horsemen, I took hold of his hand, and held it fast, while I expostulated the case. As for being convinced, he was quite above it: however, both he and his fellows grew much milder, and we parted very civilly.

Mon. 8. I preached at five, on, "Watch and pray," to

a quiet and earnest congregation. We then rode on to St. Ives, the most still and honourable post (so are the times changed) which we have in Cornwall.

Tues. 9. I had just begun preaching at St. Just, when Mr. E. came once more, took me by the hand, and said, "I must go with him." To avoid making a tumult, I went. He said, "I had promised, last week, not to come again to St. Just for a month." I absolutely denied the having made any such promise: after about half an hour he handed me back to my inn.

Wed. 10. In the evening I began to expound, (at Tre-vouan, in Morva), "Ho! every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." In less than a quarter of an hour, the Constable and his companions came, and read the proclamation against riots. When he had done, I told him, "We will do as you require; we will disperse within an hour;" and went on with my sermon. After preaching, I had designed to meet the Society alone; but many others also followed with such earnestness, that I could not turn them back: so I exhorted them all, "To love their enemies, as Christ hath loved us." They felt what was spoken: cries and tears were on every side; and all could bear witness,

"Even now the Lord doth pour
The blessing from above;
A kindly, gracious shower
Of heart-reviving love."

Thur. 11. I found some life even at Zunnor, and on Friday, 12th, at Gulval.

Sat. 13. I met the Stewards of all the Societies at St. Ives; and preached in the evening at Gwenap, without interruption.

Sun. 14. At eight I preached at Stithians, and earnestly exhorted the Society, "Not to think of pleasing men, but to count all things loss, so that they might win Christ." Before I had done, the Constables and Churchwardens came, and pressed one of the hearers for a soldier.

Mon. 15. Mr. Bennet met us at Trewint, and told us, Francis Walker had been driven thence, and had since been an instrument of great good, wherever he had been. Indeed I never remember so great an awakening in Cornwall, wrought in so short a time; among young and old, rich and poor, from Trewint quite to the sea-side.

I preached between four and five, and then went on to

Laneast church, where I read prayers, and preached on, "There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." O how pleasant a thing is even outward peace! What would not a man give for it, but a good conscience?

Tues. 16. I read prayers at five, and preached in Tresmere church. About three I preached in St. Mary Week church, on, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel." Between six and seven I began reading prayers at Tamer-ton, where I preached on John iv. 24.

Wed. 17. I rode to Mr. Thompson's, near Barnstaple, and the next evening to Minehead. Early on Friday, 19th, we went on board, and in about four hours crossed the channel, and reached Fommon.

We were here, as it were, in a new world, in peace, and honour, and abundance. How soon should I melt away in this sunshine! But the goodness of God suffered it not. In the morning I rode to Cardiff, where also there had been much disturbance, but now all was calm. I preached there in the evening. God gave a blessing with his word, and we greatly rejoiced before Him.

Sun. 21. I preached at Cardiff, at five; and at Wenvo, morning and afternoon. In the evening I preached again, at Cardiff, in the Castle-yard, on, "Great is the mystery of godliness," I never saw such a congregation in Wales before; and all behaved as men fearing God.

Mon. 22. I preached at half an hour after four, and then set out with Mr. Hodges, Rector of Wenvo, for Garth. Mr. Philips guided us, till he thought all the difficulty was over; but it proved otherwise; for almost as soon as he left us, the night coming on, we got out of the road, and might very probably have wandered till day-light, had not a gentleman met us, and rode out of his way, to show us to Mr. Gwynne's house.

Tues. 23. I preached, about noon, at Maesmennys, to a larger congregation than the church could contain. About three I preached at Builth: five Clergymen of us were present, two Justices of the Peace, and well nigh all the grown people in the town. I had not known so solemn a season before, since we came into Wales.

Wed. 24. I preached at Builth again, and afterwards at Maesmennys. Thence Mr. Philips rode with us to Landdu church, where I preached, at six, to a small serious congregation; and the next evening, Thursday,

514 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

25th, I came back safe, blessed be God, to Bristol. I found both my soul and body much refreshed in this peaceful place.

Thur. Aug. 1., and the following days, we had our second Conference, with as many of our brethren that labour in the word as could be present. During my stay here, I took the opportunity of visiting the little Societies round Bristol, in Wiltshire and Somersetshire.

Mon. 12. I was desired to read over my old friend Anthony Purver's Essay, toward a new translation of the Bible. But how was I disappointed! I found the text flat and dead; much altered indeed, but commonly for the worse; and the notes merely critical, dull and dry, without any unction, or spirit, or life.

I had now leisure to look over the letters I had received this summer, some extracts of which are here subjoined:—

"REV. SIR,

London, May 25, 1745.

"Mary Cook, who had been ill for above six months, grew much worse a week or two ago. She had been long remarkably serious, and greatly desirous of knowing her interest in Christ; but then her desires were much increased, and she had no rest in her spirit, but cried unto him day and night. On Monday last she mourned more than ever, and would not be comforted: then she lay still a while, and on a sudden broke out,

'Praise God from whom pure blessings flow.'

Her mother asked her the cause of this. She said, 'O mother, I am happy, I am happy; I shall soon go to heaven:' and many more words she spoke to the same effect. I called upon her a few hours after, and found her still in a settled peace. She told me, 'I am assured of God's love to my soul. I am not afraid to die. I know the Lord will take me to himself: Lord, hasten the time: I long to be with thee.' On Tuesday and Wednesday she spoke little, being exceedingly weak, but continued instant in prayer. On Wednesday, about noon, she desired her mother to get her up into the chair, which she did. A little before three, her mother holding her in her arms, she desired her to let her go. Then placing herself upright in the chair, with her hands laid in her lap, and a calm majesty in her countenance, she said, 'Lord receive my soul,' and expired."

"Bristol, June 6, 1745.

"I have delivered another of my charge to the Lord. On Saturday night Molly Thomas was taken home. She was always constant in the use of all the means, and behaved well, both at home and abroad. After she was taken ill, she was distressed indeed, between the pain of her body and the anguish of her soul. But where is all pain gone, when Jesus comes, when he manifests himself to the heart? In that hour she cried out, 'Christ is mine! I know my sins are forgiven me.' Then she sung praise to Him that loved her, and bought her with his own blood. The fear of death was gone, and she longed to leave her father, her mother, and all her friends. She said, 'I am almost at the top of the ladder. Now I see the towers before me, and a large company coming up behind me. I shall soon go. It is but for Christ to speak the word, and I am gone. I only wait for that word, 'Rise up, my love, and come away.'

"When they thought her strength was gone, she broke out again:—

'Christ hath the foundation laid,
And Christ shall build me up:
Surely I shall soon be made
Partaker of my hope.

Author of my faith he is;
He its finisher shall be:
Perfect love shall seal me his
To all eternity.'

"So she fell asleep. O Lord, my God, glory be to thee for all things. I feel such desires in my soul after God, that my strength goes away. I feel there is not a moment's time to spare, and yet how many do I lose? Lord Jesus, give me to be more and more diligent in all things. It is no matter to me, how I was an hour ago. Is my soul now waiting upon God? O that I may, in all things, and through all things, see nothing but Christ. O that when he comes, he may find me watching!

"SARAH CLOSTON."

"DEAR SIR,

June 27, 1745.

"I sat up with Isaac Kilby three nights, and being greatly comforted by many of his expressions, I believed it would not be losing time to set a few of them down.

"On Wednesday, June 18th, when I came into the house, he was supposed to be near his end. His body

516 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

was in great pain, and just gasping for breath; but his mind was in perfect peace.

"He had little strength to speak; but when he did, (which was now and then on a sudden, as if immediately supported for that purpose,) his words were strangely powerful, just as if they came from one who was now before the throne of glory.

"When he had just drank something, I said, 'All may drink of the water of life freely.' He lifted up his hands in great love, and said, 'Yea, all, all; all the world.'

"After long silence, he suddenly asked me, 'How I felt myself?' I replied, 'I find great consolation from the Lord.' He said, 'How strange it is, that such a rebel as I should bring glory to God?'

"When dosing, his mind would rove; but even then his discourse consisted chiefly of strong exhortation to some of his acquaintance, to repent and persevere in the ways of God.

"On Friday I called and found him in the same spirit, full of pain, yet full of joy unspeakable. I could not forbear sitting up with him again. All his words were full of divine wisdom, expressing a deep sense of the presence and mercy of God, and of his own unworthiness.

"Mention being made concerning his burial, (in the beginning of his sickness, he had desired that Mr. Wesley might bury him, and preach a sermon from that text, 'Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth,') he said, 'Now I do not think of such things: bury me as you will; yet I should be glad to have a sermon preached: but just as Mr. Wesley pleases.'

"He said to me, 'O go on, and you will rejoice as I do, in the like condition.' He prayed that he might die before the morning: but added, 'Not as I will, but as thou wilt.'

"Thus he continued till Wednesday, June 25th, when I sat up with him again. Being now much weaker, he roved more than ever; yet when I asked, 'Isaac, How do you find your soul?' he answered, 'I rejoice in God my Saviour. I am as clay in the hands of the potter.' And about half an hour after twelve, he went to sing praise to God and the Lamb for ever."

Some circumstances related in the following letter, which some may account odd accidents, I think are such

instances of the providence of God, as ought to be had in remembrance.

"REV. SIR,

Bristol, June 28, 1745.

"On May 31st I went to Sykehouse, and exhorted the people at all opportunities. On Monday, June 3^d, about three o'clock in the morning, W. Holmes came to me and said, 'Brother Moss, I have been just awaked by a dream, that the Constables and Churchwardens came to press you for a soldier. I would have you get up and go to Norton.' I did so, and he walked with me about half a mile. At his return, the Constables and Churchwardens were come. They asked him, 'Where is the Preacher?' He said, 'I have just carried him away: but have you a warrant to press such men as these?' They answered, 'Yes, we have, and will press him, if we see him here again.' He replied, 'You shall see him again in that day, when the Lord shall judge the world in righteousness.'

"He came and told me, and advised me to go thence. So I went to Epworth on Tuesday. On Wednesday night I had spoke about a quarter of an hour, when the Churchwardens and Constables came. They bade me stop. 'I told them, 'I will, when I have delivered my message.' They cried, 'Bring him away, bring him away.' I thought, 'But they cannot, unless the Lord will.' The Constable coming up to me, I looked him in the face, and he shrunk back, and said, 'I cannot take him.' His companions swore, 'But we will fetch him soon.' As they were pressing on, many of the people got between, and kept so close together, that for near half an hour they could get no further. Glory be to God, my soul, all the time, was rather in heaven than on earth.

"They went out to consult what to do, and soon returned with great staves, wherewith they beat down several that stood in their way; but still they could not make their passage through, till Mr. Maw came, (the chief gentleman in the town,) and sent for me into the house. There we prayed and sung hymns till about eleven o'clock. He then advised me to go out of the town: so many of our brethren went with me to Robert Taylor's house, at Burnham; where we continued praying and praising God, till about four o'clock in the morning. I then rode back to Norton, and from thence by Leeds, Birstal, and Barleyhall, to Sheffield.

518 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

"On Wednesday evening, June 12th, as I was privately conversing with a few of the people, the Constables and Churchwardens came up, and dragged me down stairs; but quickly one of them listened a little, and cried out, 'They are at prayers; I will have nothing to do in this matter.' The rest began to look at one another, took their hands off me, and went their way. I went from Sheffield, through Derbyshire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire, to Birmingham; and so on by Evesham and Stanley. In most places I was threatened; but out of all dangers the Lord delivered me.

"I remain

"Your child and servant in Christ,

"RICHARD MOSS."

"DEAR SIR,

London, July 10, 1745.

"The faith you mention, I have experienced much of, though not continually; but am groaning for all the glorious privileges of the children of God; and I really believe the greater part of us are earnestly seeking and patiently aspiring after this full redemption.

"Heavenly meetings we have had on Wednesday evenings, since we have opened our minds freely to each other. No one speaks but in the fear of God, so that what is spoke by any is felt by all the rest; and if any one begins to tell an unprofitable tale, there is a stop put to it without offence: so that since I have belonged to the Society I never found so great love and unity in this Meeting. Indeed so awful it sometimes is, that I seem to be little less than a spirit casting down my crown before the throne.

"I find it necessary to follow after perfection in every thing, in every place, and in every hour. There are many thoughts I think, many words I speak, and many of my works, I find are now perfect in their kind, *i.e.* thought, spoke, and done with a single eye to the glory of God. I cannot think I ought to look for perfection in the *future*, and so sit still and be idle at *present*. I received the grace of God, which I now must occupy, or suffer loss.

"Certainly God is pleased or displeased with all my thoughts, words, and actions, which is manifested to me by the convictions of his Holy Spirit; and the more I obey God, the more holy I am; and the more holy I am, the more I please God. 'Or, as one expresses it, 'The

more I deny myself in thought, word, and deed; of pride, lust, anger, self-will, worldly-mindedness, the more the good Spirit will dwell and abide in me; for where sin is, it drives the good Spirit away.' When my conscience is void of offence, I enjoy a continual sense of my justification, from which flows unspeakable peace, love, and happiness.

"I find more and more I must deny myself. Whatever others may do, I find no peace (nor do I desire it) while my thoughts, words, or actions, are agreeable to nature.

"This is my misfortune. Nature has still a part in me, and I often yield to evil thoughts, trifling words, or foolish actions; works done not in faith, which grieve the Spirit of God, and bring me into misery, and trouble: yet I have a good hope I shall go on, from strength to strength, from conquering to conquer.

"All is peaceable in this great city. How long it will remain so, is known only to Him that knows all things. My soul seems preparing for a storm, and the Spirit of Truth is continually teaching me to divest myself of all things, that being in readiness, that hour may not come upon me unawares. I have nothing outwardly, glory be to God, that keeps me confined to the earth. And I hope what is still in me contrary to the purity of Him, before whom I must shortly stand without a covering, will be taken away, before I depart hence, to be no more seen."

Tues. Aug. 13. I rode to Cirencester, and preached there in the evening. Wednesday, 14th, at Oxford; Thursday, 15th, at Wycombe; and on Friday, 16th, at London.

Sat. 17. I had much conversation with Mr. Simpson, an original enthusiast. That I might understand him the more thoroughly, I desired him in the evening to give an exhortation to the penitents. He did so, and spoke many good things, in a manner peculiar to himself. When he had done, I summed up what he had said, methodizing and explaining it. O what pity it is, this well-meaning man should ever speak without an interpreter!

Sun. 25. I saw a poor man, once joined with us, who wanted nothing in this world, but the peace the world cannot give. A day or two before he had hanged himself, but was cut down before he was dead. He had been crying out ever since, God had left him, because he had left the children of God. But he now began to have some

520 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

glimmering of hope that God would not hide his face for ever.

Tues. Sept. 3. Great was our joy in the Lord, at the public reading of the letters. Part of one was as follows :—

“ Betley, near Namptwich, August 24, 1745.

“ I rejoice that the Lord stirs you up more and more, to labour in his vineyard. I am persuaded it is not a small matter, whether we speak or let it alone. If I go into any company, and there be an opportunity to reprove or exhort, and I come away without using it, I am as much condemned in my own conscience as if I had robbed them. Pray for me, that I may have patience to endure the contradiction of sinners, and that I may always remember, the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

“ Sun. Aug. 4. We met as usual. As soon as we had begun prayer, there came the Curate, with a Lawyer. He stayed till we had done prayer, and then asked, ‘ What is the intent of your meeting? ’ I answered, ‘ To build each other up in our most holy faith. ’ He said, ‘ But what method do you use? ’ I answered, ‘ This is the third Sunday that I have met these my brethren. The first Sunday we read the fifth chapter of St. Matthew, and exhorted one another to follow after the holiness and happiness there described. Last Sunday we considered the sixth. And now, if we are not hindered, we shall go on to the seventh. ’ He bade us ‘ Go on; and he would stay a little and hear us. ’ By the desire of the rest I read the Chapter, which I had scarce done, when the Lawyer began a long harangue, concerning the danger we were in of running mad. I answered, ‘ Sir, as I perceive you have no design to help us, if you will not hinder us, we shall take it as a favour. ’ He went out directly, and left the Curate with us, who began to exhort us, not to be over anxious about our salvation, but to divert ourselves a little. I told him, ‘ Sir, we desire, whatever we do, to do all to the glory of God. ’ ‘ What, ’ said he, ‘ do you deny all diversions? ’ I said, ‘ All which do not agree with that rule. ’ He hurried away, and said as he went, ‘ I wish you do not fall into some error. ’

“ The following week, grievous threatenings were given out, of what we should suffer if we met again. On Friday, 9th, a gentleman sent for me, and told me, ‘ He

would hire a mob to pull the house down; for we were the most disturbing dogs in the nation.' I said, 'Sir, if there be a disturbance now, it will lie at your door.' A few of us intend to meet on Sunday after Sermon, to encourage one another in serving God. You say, If we do, you will have the house pulled down; and then you will say, 'We have made the disturbance!' He said, 'He would send for me another time, and have an hour's discourse with me.'

"On Sunday, the man at whose house we were to meet was warned by his landlady not to receive us; for if he did, the house would surely be pulled down. However, he did receive us. A great many people coming about the house, he told them, If they had a mind they might come in: so they came in, as many as the house would hold. I told them all, the design of our meeting. Then we prayed, and I read the first Chapter of St. James, and spoke a little on those words: 'If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not.' And two more of our brethren testified, by their own experience, that he is a God of truth. They stood as dumb men, till we had done, nor did one afterward open his mouth against us.

"From this time we have been threatened more and more, especially by the gentry, who say they will send us all for soldiers. Nevertheless, on Sunday, 18th, we had a quiet and comfortable meeting. We considered the third Chapter of the First Epistle of St. Peter, which was the evening lesson for the day. We were thankful for the record that is there left us, of the treatment we are to meet with. And we are all much humbled, that we are counted worthy to suffer shame for the sake of Christ.

"I have been ill this fortnight, having got a great cold, but am obliged to keep it to myself as much as I can: because a person here cannot have the very form of godliness, but if he is sick, that is the cause of it. I seem not to desire life or death, but that the will of God may be done."

Fri. 6. Many of our friends were grieved at the advertisement which James Hutton had just published, by order of Count Zinzendorf, declaring, that he and his people had no connexion with Mr. John and Charles Wesley. But I believed that declaration would do us no more harm than

the prophecy which the Count subjoined to it, That we should "soon run our heads against the wall." We will not, if we can help it.

Sun. 8. In the evening I desired the Society to stay, that we might commend each other to God, as not knowing how he might see good to dispose of us, before we saw each other's face again.

Mon. 9. I left London, and the next morning called on Dr. Doddridge at Northampton. It was about the hour when he was accustomed to expound a portion of Scripture to the young gentlemen under his care. He desired me to take his place. It may be the seed was not altogether sown in vain.

In the evening, the church at Markfield was full, while I explained, "The Scripture hath concluded all under sin."

Wed. 11. I preached at Sheffield. I had designed to go round by Epworth: but hearing of more and more commotions in the North, I judged it best to go straight on to Newcastle.

Thur. 12. I came to Leeds, preached at five, and at eight met the Society: after which the mob pelted us with dirt and stones, great part of the way home. The congregation was much larger next evening; and so was the mob at our return, and likewise in higher spirits, being ready to knock out all our brains, for joy that the Duke of Tuscany was Emperor. What a melancholy consideration is this? That the bulk of the English nation will not suffer God to give them the blessings he would; because they would turn them into curses. He cannot, for instance, give them success against their enemies; for they would tear their own countrymen in pieces: He cannot trust them with victory, lest they should thank him by murdering those that are quiet in the land.

On Saturday and Sunday I preached at Armley, Birstal, and Leeds; and on Monday, 16th, rode to Osmotherley.

Tues. 17. I saw the poor remains of the old chapel on the brow of the hill; as well as those of the Carthusian monastery, (called Mount Grace,) which lay at the foot of it. The walls of the church, of the cloister, and some of the cells, are tolerably entire, and one may still discern the partitions between the little gardens, one of which belonged to every cell. Who knows but some of the poor superstitious monks, who once served God here according to the light they had, may meet us by-and-bye, in that

house of God, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens?

. Wed. 18. About five we came to Newcastle, in an acceptable time. We found the generality of the inhabitants in the utmost consternation; news being just arrived, that, the morning before, at two o'clock, the Pretender had entered Edinburgh. A great concourse of people were with us in the evening, to whom I expounded the third Chapter of Jonah: insisting particularly on that verse, "Who can tell, if God will return, and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"

Thur. 19. The Mayor (Mr. Ridley) summoned all the householders of the town to meet him at the Town-Hall; and desired as many of them as were willing to set their hands to a paper, importing that they would, at the hazard of their goods and lives, defend the town against the common enemy. Fear and darkness were now on every side; but not on those who had seen the light of God's countenance. We rejoiced together in the evening with solemn joy, while God applied those words to many hearts: "Fear not, ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified."

Fri. 20. The Mayor ordered the townsmen to be under arms, and to mount guard in their turns, over and above the guard of soldiers; a few companies of whom had been drawn into the town on the first alarm. Now, also, Pilgrim-Street Gate was ordered to be walled up. Many began to be much concerned for us, because our house stood without the walls. Nay, but the Lord is a wall of fire unto all that trust in him.

I had desired all our brethren to join with us this day in seeking God by fasting and prayer. About one we met, and poured out our souls before Him; and we believed He would send an answer of peace.

Sat. 21. The same day the action was, came the news of General Cope's defeat. Orders were now given for the doubling of the guard, and for walling up Pandon and Sally-Port Gates. In the afternoon I wrote the following letter:—

To the Worshipful the Mayor of Newcastle.

SIR,

My not waiting upon you at the Town-Hall was not owing to any want of respect. I reverence you for your

office sake, and much more for your zeal in the execution of it. I would to God every Magistrate in the land would copy after such an example! Much less was it owing to any disaffection to His Majesty King George: but I knew not how far it might be either necessary or proper for me to appear on such an occasion. I have no fortune at Newcastle: I have only the bread I eat, and the use of a little room for a few weeks in the year.

All I can do for His Majesty, whom I honour and love, I think, not less than I did my own father, is this: I cry unto God day by day, in public and in private, to put all his enemies to confusion; and I exhort all that hear me to do the same, and, in their several stations, to exert themselves as loyal subjects, who, so long as they fear God, cannot but honour the King.

Permit me, Sir, to add a few words more, out of the fulness of my heart. I am persuaded that you fear God, and have a deep sense that his kingdom ruleth over all. Unto whom, then, (I may ask you,) should we flee for succour, but unto Him whom, by our sins, we have justly displeased? O, Sir, is it not possible to give any check to those overflowings of ungodliness,—to the open, flagrant wickedness, the drunkenness and profaneness, which so abound, even in our streets? I just take leave to suggest this. May the God whom you serve direct you in this and all things! This is the daily prayer of,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant, for Christ's sake,

J. W.

Sun. 22. The walls were mounted with cannon, and all things prepared for sustaining an assault. Meantime our poor neighbours on either hand were busy in removing their goods; and most of the best houses in our street were left without either furniture or inhabitants. Those within the walls were almost equally busy in carrying away their money and goods; and more and more of the gentry every hour rode southward as fast as they could. At eight I preached at Gateshead, in a broad part of the street, near the Popish Chapel, on the wisdom of God in governing the world. How do all things tend to the furtherance of the Gospel!

I never saw before so well-behaved a congregation in any church in Newcastle as was that at St. Andrew's this

morning. The place appeared as indeed the house of God; and the sermon Mr. Ellison preached was strong and weighty, which he could scarce conclude for tears.

All this week the alarms from the North continued, and the storm seemed nearer every day. Many wondered we would stay without the walls. Others told us we must remove quickly; for if the cannon began to play from the top of the gates, they would beat all the houses about our ears. This made me look how the cannons on the gates were planted; and I could not but adore the providence of God: for it was obvious, 1. They were all planted in such a manner that no shot could touch our house. 2. The cannon on Newgate so secured us on one side, and those upon Pilgrim-Street gate on the other, that none could come near our house either way without being torn in pieces.

On Friday and Saturday, many messengers of lies terrified the poor people of the town, as if the rebels were just coming to swallow them up. Upon this the guards were increased, and abundance of country gentlemen came in with their servants, horses, and arms. Among those who came from the North, was one whom the Mayor ordered to be apprehended on suspicion of his being a spy. As soon as he was left alone, he cut his own throat; but a surgeon coming quickly, sewed up the wound; so that he lived to discover those designs of the rebels which were thereby effectually prevented.

Sun. 29. Advice came that they were in full march southward, so that it was supposed they would reach Newcastle by Monday evening. At eight I called on a multitude of sinners in Gateshead, to seek the Lord while he might be found. Mr. Ellison preached another earnest sermon, and all the people seemed to bend before the Lord. In the afternoon I expounded part of the lesson for the day, Jacob wrestling with the Angel. The congregation was so moved, that I began again and again, and knew not how to conclude; and we cried mightily to God to send His Majesty King George help from his holy place, and to spare a sinful land yet a little longer, if haply they might know the day of their visitation.

On Monday and Tuesday I visited some of the Societies in the country; and on Wednesday, October 2d, returned to Newcastle, where they were just informed that the rebels had left Edinburgh on Monday, and were swiftly

marching toward them; but it appeared soon that this also was a false alarm: it being only a party which had moved southward; the main body still remaining in their camp, a mile or two from Edinburgh.

On Thursday and Friday I visited the rest of the country Societies. On Saturday a party of the rebels (about a thousand men) came within seventeen miles of Newcastle. This occasioned a fresh alarm in the town; and orders were given by the General, that the soldiers should march against them on Monday morning; but these orders were countermanded.

Mr. Nixon (the gentleman who had some days since, upon being apprehended, cut his own throat) being still unable to speak, wrote as well as he could, "That the design of the Prince (as they called him) was, to seize on Tinmouth Castle, which he knew was well provided both with cannon and ammunition; and thence to march to the hill on the east side of Newcastle, which entirely commands the town." And if this had been done, he would have carried his point, and gained the town without a blow. The Mayor immediately sent to Tinmouth Castle, and lodged the cannon and ammunition in a safer place.

Tues. 8. I wrote to General Husk as follows:—

A surly man came to me this evening, as he said, from you. He would not deign to come up stairs to me, nor so much as into the house; but stood in the yard till I came, and then obliged me to go with him into the street, where he said, "You must pull down the battlements of your house, or to-morrow the General will pull them down for you."

Sir, to me this is nothing; but I humbly conceive it would not be proper for this man, whoever he is, to behave in such a manner to any other of His Majesty's subjects, at so critical a time as this.

I am ready, if it may be for His Majesty's service, to pull not only the battlements, but the house down; or to give up any part of it, or the whole, into your Excellency's hands.

Wed. 9. It being supposed that the danger was over for the present, I preached at four in Gateshead, (at John Lyddel's,) on, "Stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." And then taking horse with Mr. Shepherd, in the evening reached Sandhutton.

Thur. 10. We dined at Ferry-Bridge, where we were conducted to General Wentworth, who did us the honour to read over all the letters we had about us. We lay at Doncaster, nothing pleased with the drunken, cursing, swearing soldiers who surrounded us on every side. Can these wretches succeed in any thing they undertake? I fear not, if there be a God that judgeth the earth.

Fri. 11. I rode to Epworth, and preached in the evening on the third of Jonah. I read to-day part of the Meditations of Marcus Antonius. What a strange Emperor! And what a strange Heathen! Giving thanks to God for all the good things he enjoyed! In particular for his good inspiration, and for twice revealing to him in dreams things whereby he was cured of (otherwise) incurable distempers. I make no doubt but this is one of those many who shall come from the east and the west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, while the children of the kingdom, nominal Christians, are shut out.

Sun. 13. I had the satisfaction of hearing Mr. Romley preach an earnest, affectionate sermon, exhorting all men to prevent the judgments of God by sincere, inward, universal repentance. It rained both before and after, but not while I preached at the cross in the afternoon. In the evening I strongly exhorted the Society to "fear God and honour the King."

Mon. 14. I rode to Sheffield. We were much at a loss in the evening what to do with the congregation. They stood above stairs, and below, and in the yard; but still there was not room.

Tues. 15. I wrote "A word in Season, or Advice to an Englishman." The next morning I preached at Barley-Hall, and then rode on for Leeds. I preached there at five, and the next morning and evening, without any noise or interruption.

Fri. 18. At one I preached at Oulton. The little company there do indeed love as brethren. I divided the residue of my time between Birstal and Leeds; and on Monday, 21st, took my leave of them for a short season, and rode to Mr. Adams's, at Osmotherley.

Tues. 22. I came to Newcastle in the evening, just as Mr. Trembath was giving out the hymn; and, as soon as it was ended, began preaching, without feeling any want of strength.

528 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Wed. 23. I found all things calm and quiet; the consternation of the people was over; but the seriousness which it had occasioned in many continued and increased.

Sat. 26. I sent Alderman Ridley the following letter:—

SIR,

THE fear of God, the love of my country, and the regard I have for His Majesty King George, constrain me to write a few plain words to one who is no stranger to these principles of action.

My soul has been pained day by day, even in walking the streets of Newcastle, at the senseless, shameless wickedness, the ignorant profaneness, of the poor men to whom our lives are entrusted. The continual cursing and swearing, the wanton blasphemy of the soldiers in general, must needs be a torture to the sober ear, whether of a Christian or an honest Infidel. Can any that either fear God or love their neighbour, hear this without concern, especially if they consider the interest of our country, as well as of these unhappy men themselves? For can it be expected that God should be on their side who are daily affronting Him to his face? And if God be not on their side, how little will either their number, or courage, or strength avail!

Is there no man that careth for these souls? Doubtless there are some who ought so to do; but many of these, if I am rightly informed, receive large pay, and do just nothing.

I would to God it were in my power, in any degree, to supply their lack of service. I am ready to do what in me lies to call these poor sinners to repentance, once or twice a day, (while I remain in these parts,) at any hour, or at any place; and I desire no pay at all for doing this; unless what my Lord shall give at his appearing.

If it be objected, (from our heathenish Poet,) "This conscience will make cowards of us all;" I answer, Let us judge by matter of fact: let either friends or enemies speak. Did those who feared God behave as cowards at Fontenoy? Did J. H., the dragoon, betray any cowardice before or after his horse sunk under him? Or did W. C., when he received the first ball in his left, and the second in his right arm? Or John Evans, when the cannon-ball took off both his legs? Did he not call all about him, as long as he could speak, to praise and

fear God, and honour the King, as one who feared nothing, but lest his last breath should be spent in vain?

If it were objected, That I should only fill their heads with peculiar whims and notions; that might easily be known. Only let the officers hear with their own ears; and they may judge whether I do not preach the plain principles of manly, rational religion.

Having myself no knowledge of the General, I took the liberty to make this offer to you. I have no interest herein; but I should rejoice to serve, as I am able, my King and country. If it be judged, that this will be of no real service, let the proposal die, and be forgotten. But I beg you, Sir, to believe, that I have the same glorious cause, for which you have shown so becoming a zeal, earnestly at heart; and that therefore, I am, with warm respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant.

Sun. 27. I received a message from Mr. Ridley, that he would communicate my proposal to the General, and return me his answer as soon as possible.

Mon. 28. I rode to Biddick, where the first are become last: I preached on, "Will ye also go away?" Many appeared to be cut to the heart; but it is well if these convictions also, do not pass away as the morning cloud.

Tues. 29. A young gentleman called upon me, whose father is an eminent Minister in Scotland, and was in union with Mr. Glass, till Mr. Glass renounced him, because they did not agree as to the eating of blood. (Although I wonder any should disagree about this, who have read the fifteenth chapter of the Acts, and considered, that no Christian in the universe did eat it, till the Pope repealed the law which had remained at least ever since Noah's flood.) Are not these things in Scotland also for our instruction? How often are we warned not to fall out by the way? O that we may never make any thing, more or less, the term of union with us, but the having the mind which was in Christ, and the walking as He walked!

Thur. 31. At ten I preached on the Town-Moor, at a small distance from the English camp, (the Germans lying by themselves,) on, "Ho! Every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters!" None attempted to make the least

disturbance, from the beginning to the end; yet I could not reach their hearts. The words of a scholar did not affect them like those of a dragoon or a grenadier.

Friday, November 1. A little after nine, just as I began to preach on a little eminence before the camp, the rain (which had continued all the morning) stayed, and did not begin again till I had finished. A Lieutenant endeavoured to make some disturbance. However, when I had done, he tried to make amends by getting up where I stood, and telling the soldiers, all I had said was very good.

Sat. 2. The rain was stayed to-day also, from nine to ten, (it fell both before and after,) while I preached on, "The scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise might be given to them that believe." And I began to perceive some fruit of my labour; not only in the number of hearers, but in the power of God, which was more and more among them, both to wound and to heal.

Sun. 3. I preached about half an hour after eight, to a larger congregation than any before, on, "The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel." And were it only for the sake of this hour, I should not have thought much of staying here longer than I intended. Between one and two in the afternoon, I went to the camp once more. Abundance of people now flocked together, horse and foot, rich and poor, to whom I declared, "There is no difference; for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." I observed many Germans standing disconsolate at the skirts of the congregation: to these I was constrained (though I had discontinued it so long) to speak a few words in their own language. Immediately they gathered up close together, and drank in every word.

I received two or three letters while I was at Newcastle, part of which is here subjoined:—

"DEAR SIR,

"FOR more than three years I walked clearly in the light of God's countenance. Nothing could interrupt my peace, nor did I find the least rising of any evil temper; so that I believed, I was, in the full sense, born of God; but at last, I found I had been mistaken. It is now about a year since I found, I could not bear all things:

I could not bear to be slighted by those I loved.^v This occasioned pride and resentment to rise in my heart, so that I was forced to own, 'I have still an evil heart.' Then I was, tempted to despair. But the Lord was still nigh me, and lifted up my head. He showed me my sin, yet did He not hide himself from me; but I could still call Him, 'My Lord, and my God.'

"It does not appear to me, that there is any need for us, in this case, to try to pull down one another. For though a person does think he has attained, when he has not, yet if he be simple and sincere, and desires to know himself, God will show him, in the time and manner that seemeth Him best.

"As to myself, I often think, had I been faithful to the grace of God, I never had needed to know trouble more. For I believe He would have carried me on from grace to grace, till He had made me meet for glory. But I know not if it is needful that I should see more of my heart. May his will be done! Only make me faithful in the fight, and then do what seemeth thee good.

"I find a great difference between what I once felt in myself, and what I feel now. Then I felt nothing but love, and peace, and joy in believing. Now, though I feel a measure of all these heavenly tempers, yet I feel other tempers also; and if I do not continually fight against them, I am overcome. The Devil tempted me then; but it was as nothing: for he seemed to have no part in me. But now I find an enemy in my own bosom, that is ready to betray me every moment. I believe, did I not yet expect a full deliverance from sin, I should grow faint and weary. But the hope of that gives me fresh courage to go on. For I cannot doubt but I shall be a living witness of it. O may the Lord hasten the time! Dear Sir, do not fail to pray, that He may fulfil that great work in

"Your daughter in Christ,
"M. F."

"DEAR SIR,

Sept. 21, 1745.

"I WILL let you know, as near as I can, how the Lord hath dealt with me ever since I can remember. When I was five or six years old, I had many serious thoughts about death and judgment. I wanted to be good, but I knew not how. I was often in great trouble for fear I should die and go to hell. If at any time I told a lie,

I was like one in hell. I was afraid to be one moment by myself, for I thought the Devil would come and tear me in pieces; and so I continued till I was about eight years old. Then I received a measure of the love of God. I loved Jesus Christ, so that I thought I could suffer any thing for his sake. I could not bear to be with other children, but when I was from school, I would go by myself, and pray, and read: I prayed much for death, for I wanted to be with Christ, and I thought if I lived I should sin and offend God.

"I continued in this temper till I went to a boarding school. There I soon trifled away all the grace of God, and could play as well as the rest, though not without convictions; but I soon stifled them. As I grew in years I grew in sin, and delighted more and more in vanity, till I was fourteen or fifteen years old. I had then a severe fit of illness, in which I made many good resolutions, and when I recovered, I began to be more strict in outward duties. I went constantly to church and Sacrament, but I had the same heart still, that could not forsake my bosom-sins, such as dancing, going to plays, and reading trifling books. The Spirit of the Lord often reproved me for these things; but I stifled it by thinking, 'Such and such an one does so, and they are very good people.'

"When Mr. Whitefield first preached, I went to hear him, and I found great drawings from God. But till I heard your brother and you, I did not know myself. Then I found I was an unbeliever, and that none could help me but Christ. I cried unto Him, and He heard me, and spoke those words with power to my heart: 'Go in peace, thy sins are forgiven thee.' I was in great ecstasy of joy, and love, and cried out, 'I shall never sin any more.' This continued about two months. But having no acquaintance with any person of experience, I was ignorant of Satan's devices, when he transformed himself into an angel of light. He suggested, 'Christ has fulfilled the law for you. You are no longer subject to ordinances: You are now to be still and wait upon God.' So I did not go to the Sacrament for two months. Neither did I kneel down to pray, or use any other ordinance, unless I was moved to it. At first God strove with me; but the Devil told me, 'It was the spirit of bondage, and I must resist it; for I was free from the law.' In a little time he left off striving, and I grew quite easy and satis-

fied; but withal quite dead and cold. I could now hear idle talking without any pain; nay, and my heart began to join with it. Then I awoke, as one out of sleep, and looked for the Lord; but He was departed from me. Just then the brethren at Fetter-Lane began to preach stillness. I cried out, 'This doctrine is not right: for by yielding to this, I have lost all my peace and love.' I was now in great distress. The Devil told me, it was impossible to renew me again to repentance; so that I fell into utter despair, and all my friends believed me to be quite distracted.

"I was in this dark state for more than a year. It was at the Sacrament the Lord returned to me. The love and joy were the same I felt when I received remission of sins, only much greater. I was in a new world; my heart was so filled with love to God, and to all mankind, that I thought old things were passed away, and all things in me become new. For near four years I felt no evil in my heart, nor any desire but in submission to the will of God.

"I still retain a sense of the love of God to me, and a power to love Him at all times. Other desires are often ready to creep in; but through the Lord strengthening me, I am more than conqueror. I find a thirst in my soul, which nothing short of the fulness of God can satisfy. O may the Lord hasten that time, when my soul shall be filled with God!"

"REVEREND SIR,

Leeds, Sep. 30, 1745.

"THE first sight of you at Wakefield sunk my proud spirits; and I believe had I not gone up stairs to harden my heart against the truth, what you said would have made a deeper impression upon me. I often afterwards thought, 'These things are true; but why does nobody understand them, but my husband and Frank Scott? Then the rich came to me, and advised me to use my husband ill, and see if that would not drive him from this way. And sometimes I used fair means. But this was dangerous; for then he could speak freely to me, and I found it stole upon me. But I took great care he should not perceive it, lest he should follow on, and make me like himself. Then I went to the Vicar, who said my husband was mad, and there were no such things as he pretended to. Hereby my heart was hardened more and

more, till I resolved to go away and leave him. So I told him; which made him weep much, and strive to show me the wickedness of my resolution. However, by the advice of my old friend the Vicar, I got over that doubt, took about sixty pounds of my husband's money, and fixed the time of my privately setting out for London: but God prevented me, for I found myself with child; so that design was at an end.

"Soon after, as few in Wakefield would employ my husband, he was obliged to remove to Leeds. What I now feared was, that they of the Society would come and talk to me. But I soon forced them to stay away, I was so sharp and abusive to any that came. Yet my heart began to soften, and when I spoke things of them which I thought were false, I was afterwards checked in my own mind. I began to like that my husband should overcome, when talking to gainsayers. I went more to church and Sacrament; and the time you was here before, when my husband said you should come and see me, it pleased me much, though I hid it from him; and when he said you were gone, it grieved me sore. Then being uneasy, I went to Mr. M——d. He said, You were all wrong; and that if I went to church and Sacrament, and did as I would be done by, all would be well. So my wound was healed, and I was easy.

"On Sunday, June 22d, about midnight, I was taken ill of a fever, but thought nothing of death till Thursday, when the Doctor and Apothecary declared my danger, which, with my husband's home speeches, sunk my spirits, and I promised God, how good I would be if he would spare me; but yet could not abide the Methodists. On Friday, while my husband was talking with the Apothecary, of the wickedness of flattering people with the hopes of life, till they died and dropped into hell, my mother brought in the Vicar. He asked the Apothecary, How I did? who said, I was very ill; but my husband made me worse, by talking of my dying out of Christ, and being damned. The V—— flew very vehemently at my husband, and said many warm things. My husband answered, 'Speak agreeably to Scripture, and the doctrine of our Church, or I will not hear you.' 'What,' said he, 'are you inspired?' 'Are not you, Sir?' said my husband. 'To the articles of the Church. Before the grace of God, and the inspiration of his Holy Spirit, can

no good work be done.' He made no answer, but left the room in haste.

"On Saturday my mother brought the Reverend Mr. S., who said, 'I suppose you are one of those perfection-men?' 'Sir,' said my husband, 'Are not you? Do you not pray ever Sunday, that you may perfectly love God?' He was going away, but my mother begged him to see me, and asked, if there was any such thing as knowing one's sins forgiven? He said, some might; but I might be saved without. My husband said, 'Sir, the Homilies speak otherwise,' and added a few words from them. Mr. S. answered, 'You want your head breaking;' which surprised me much. However, he went to prayers, but in such a flutter, he forgot I was a woman, and prayed for a man, and then went away.

"I was sometimes more, sometimes less serious, till Monday afternoon, when an old acquaintance from Wakefield came to see me: a poor drunken, idle, talking man. When he was gone, my husband said, He would suffer no more such as him to come near me. I flew into a great rage, on which he went into another room, and poured out his soul before God for me. The Lord hearkened, and heard, and sent his Holy Spirit, who gave me to think, 'What I had been doing all my life; and to resolve to give up all for Christ.' Immediately I felt a strong love to God, and a steadfast hope, that if I cried to Him, I should have the knowledge of salvation, by the remission of my sins. When my husband came into the room, I called him to me, and told him how I was. He could hardly believe it; and to try me, asked, If John Nelson should come and pray with me? I said, Yes, or any of the children of God. Then he took courage, and we wept on each other's neck. When John Nelson came, he strengthened me much. He came a second time between nine and ten. After he went, my husband and sister Fenton prayed with me, till they were quite spent; but I thought, if they were, I must not. So I looked to God for strength, and He gave it, and I prayed without ceasing, till that text came fresh into my mind, 'There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, that need no repentance.' I was then I know not how. I thought Christ stood in the front, and all the angels behind, and on each side of Him, rejoicing over me; but

still I had not a clear sight that my sins were forgiven. However, I now ventured to take a little sleep. I slept from two till five. When I awaked, I began to cry out for help; I thought his chariots were long a coming. "I continued in prayer till my husband, / who sat by me, perceiving my prayers were swallowed up in praise. Indeed I was lost in Christ. I knew not where I was. My burden was quite gone, and I found my nature quite changed, and my affections carried away to heaven. Then I broke out into such expressions as I cannot utter now, praising God for what He had done for my soul. My fever also was gone. As soon as I was assured of his love, I was healed both in body and soul; which I told the Doctor and Apothecary in the morning, who stood like men in amaze, and confessed they had never seen such a thing before. A deal of people came all that week; on Wednesday in particular, I was talking to them, without any time for breakfast or dinner, from six in the morning to six at night. Dear Sir, pray for me, that God may keep me, who am

"Your unworthy sister,

"JANE BATE."

Having now delivered my own soul, on Monday, 4th, I left Newcastle. Before nine we met several expresses sent to countermand the march of the army into Scotland, and to inform them, that the rebels had passed the Tweed, and were marching southward. Tuesday 5th, in the evening, I came to Leeds, and found the town full of bonfires, and people shouting, firing of guns, cursing and swearing, as the English manner of keeping holydays is. I immediately sent word to some of the Magistrates, of what I had heard on the road. This ran through the town, as it were, in an instant. And I hope it was a token for good: the hurry in the streets was quashed at once; some of the bonfires indeed remained. But scarce any one was to be seen about them, but a few children warming their hands.

Thur. 7. I rode to Stables-Hall in Cheshire, after many interruptions in the way, by those poor tools of watchmen, who stood with great solemnity at the end of almost every village. I preached there on Mark i. 15., and rode on to Bradbury-Green.

Fri. 8. Understanding that a neighbouring gentleman,

Dr. C., had affirmed to many, "That Mr. Wesley was now with the Pretender near Edinburgh," I wrote him a few lines : it may be he will have a little more regard to truth, or shame, for the time to come.

About noon I preached near Maxfield; in the evening at the Black-House. Saturday, 9th, in the afternoon, we came to Penkridge, and lit on a poor, drunken, cursing, swearing landlord, who seemed scarce to think there was either God or Devil. But I had spoken very little, when his countenance changed, and he was so full of his thanks and blessings, that I could hardly make an end of my sentence. May salvation come to this house also!

It was exceeding dark when we rode through Bilston. However, we did not stick fast till we came to Wednesbury Town-End. Several coming with candles, I got out of the quagmire, and, leaving them to disengage my horse, walked to Francis Ward's, and preached on, "Fear not ye; for I know ye seek him that was crucified."

Sun. 10. I preached at five, and at eight in Wednesbury, (about one at Tipton-Green,) and at four in the afternoon, to well nigh the whole town, high and low, as at the beginning.

Mon. 11. I preached at Birmingham : the next morning I set out, and on Wednesday, 13th, reached London.

Mon. 18. I spent a little time with B. Armsted, weak in body, but strong in faith. She had been calmly waiting for God, till her hands and feet grew cold, and she was in all appearance at the point of death. Then Satan returned with all his force, and covered her with thick darkness. This threw her into such a vehement wrestling with God, as brought back her fever and her strength; so that, in all probability, the old murderer saved her life, by his furious attempt to destroy her soul.

Fri. 22. The alarm daily increasing, concerning the rebels on one hand, and the French on the other, we perceived the wisdom and goodness of Him, who hath his way in the whirlwind. The generality of people were a little inclined to think. And many began to own the hand of God.

Mon. 25. I retired to Newington, in order to finish the Farther Appeal : the state of the public affairs loudly demanding, that whatever was done, should be done quickly.

Thur. 28. I wrote, "A Word to a Drunkard." Friday, 29th, I spent an hour with Mr. Lampe, who had been a

538 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Deist for many years, till it pleased God by the "Earnest Appeal," to bring him to a better mind.

Monday, December 2. The alarm still increased in London, on account of the nearer approach of the rebels. But how easy are all these things to them/who can commit both soul and body to a merciful and faithful Creator!

About this time I received some farther accounts from the army, the substance of which was as follows:—

"REVEREND SIR,

October 10, 1745.

"I SHALL acquaint you with the Lord's dealings with us, since April last. We marched from Ghent to Allost on the 14th, where I met with two or three of our brethren in the fields, and we sung and prayed together, and were comforted. On the 15th I met a small company about three miles from the town, and the Lord filled our hearts with love and peace. On the 17th we marched to the camp near Brussels. On the 18th I met a small congregation on the side of a hill, and spoke from those words, 'Let us go forth therefore to him without the camp, bearing his reproach.' On the 28th I spoke from those words of Isaiah: 'Thus saith the Lord concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.' On the 29th we marched close to the enemy, and when I saw them in their camp, my bowels moved toward them in love and pity for their souls. We lay on our arms all night. In the morning, April 30, the cannon began to play at half an hour after four, and the Lord took away all fear from me, so that I went into the field with joy. The balls flew on either hand, and the men fell in abundance; but nothing touched me till about two o'clock. Then I received a ball through my left arm, and rejoiced so much the more. Soon after I received another into my right, which obliged me to quit the field. But I scarce knew whether I was on earth or in heaven. It was one of the sweetest days I ever enjoyed.

"WM. CLE—TS."

"Leare, near Antwerp,
Oct. 21, 1745.

"SINCE I wrote to you last, I have gone through great trials. It was not the least, that I have lost by dear brother Clements for a season, being shot through both the arms. To try me farther, J. Evans and Bishop were

both killed in the battle, as was C. Greenwood soon after. Two more who did speak boldly in the name of Jesus, are fallen into the world again. So I am left alone. But I know it is for my good. Seeing iniquity so much abound, and the love of many wax cold, adds wings to my devotion, and my faith grows daily as a plant by the water-side.

"April 30. The Lord was pleased to try our little flock, and to show them his mighty power. Some days before, one of them standing at his tent door, broke out into raptures of joy, knowing his departure was at hand, and was so filled with the love of God, that he danced before his comrades. In the battle, before he died, he openly declared, 'I am going to rest from my labours in the bosom of Jesus.' I believe nothing like this was ever heard of before, in the midst of so wicked an army as ours. Some were crying out in their wounds, 'I am going to my Beloved;' others, 'Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly:' and many that were not wounded, crying to their Lord, to take them to himself. There was such boldness in the battle among this little despised flock, that it made the officers as well as common soldiers amazed; and they acknowledge it to this day. As to my own part, I stood the fire of the enemy for above seven hours. Then my horse was shot under me, and I was exposed both to the enemy and our own horse. But that did not discourage me at all; for I knew the God of Jacob was with me. I had a long way to go, the balls flying on every side, and thousands lay bleeding, groaning, dying, and dead on each hand. Surely I was as in a fiery furnace; but it never singed one hair of my head. The hotter it grew, the more strength was given me. I was full of joy and love, as much as I could well bear. Going on, I met one of our brethren, with a little dish in his hand, seeking for water. He smiled, and said he had got a sore wound in his leg. I asked, 'Have you gotten Christ in your heart?' He answered, 'I have, and I have had him all the day. Blessed be God that I ever saw your face.' Lord, what am I, that I should be counted worthy to set my hand to the gospel-plough? Lord, humble me, and lay me in the dust!

"J. H."

Sun. 7. I took my leave of poor J. C., just embarking for Germany. I admire the justice of God! He who would never long be advised by any who treated him

as a reasonable creature, is at length fallen among those who will make him as passive a tool as ever moved upon wire.

Wed. 18. Being the day of the national fast, we met at four in the morning. I preached on Joel ii. 12, &c. At nine our service in West-Street began. At five I preached at the Foundery again, on, "The Lord sitteth above the water-floods." Abundance of people were at West-Street Chapel, and at the Foundery, both morning and evening: as also (we understood) at every place of public worship, throughout London and Westminster. And such a solemnity and seriousness everywhere appeared as had not been lately seen in England.

We had within a short time given away some thousands of little Tracts among the common people. And it pleased God hereby to provoke others to jealousy: insomuch that the Lord Mayor had ordered a large quantity of papers, dissuading from cursing and swearing, to be printed, and distributed to the train-bands. And this day an earnest exhortation to serious repentance was given at every church-door in or near London, to every person who came out, and one left at the house of every householder who was absent from church. I doubt not but God gave a blessing therewith: and perhaps then the sentence of desolation was recalled.

It was on this very day, that the Duke's army was so remarkably preserved, in the midst of the ambuscades at Clifton-Moor. The rebels fired many volleys upon the King's troops from the hedges and walls, behind which they lay. And yet, from first to last, only ten or twelve men fell, the shot flying over their heads.

Wed. 25. I talked with a young man, who seemed to be under strong convictions; but I fear, only seemed. I am surprised, that in so many years this is the first hypocrite of the kind I have met with; the first, who appeared to have deliberately put on the mask of religion, purely to serve a secular end.

Fri. 27. Having received a long letter from Mr. Hall, earnestly pressing my brother and me to renounce the Church of England, (for not complying with which advice he soon renounced us,) I wrote to him as follows:—

DEAR BROTHER,

Now you act the part of a friend. It has been long our desire, that you would speak freely. And we will

do the same. What we know not yet, may God reveal to us!

You think, first, That we undertake to defend some things, which are not defensible by the word of God. You instance in three; on each of which we will explain ourselves as clearly as we can.

1. "That the validity of our ministry depends on a succession supposed to be from the Apostles, and a commission derived from the Pope of Rome, and his successors or dependents."

We believe, it would not be right for us to administer either baptism or the Lord's Supper, unless we had a commission so to do from those bishops, whom we apprehend to be in a succession from the Apostles. And yet we allow these bishops are the successors of those, who were dependent on the Bishop of Rome.

But we would be glad to know, on what reasons you believe this to be inconsistent with the word of God?

2. "That there is an outward priesthood, and consequently an outward sacrifice, ordained and offered by the Bishop of Rome, and his successors or dependents, in the Church of England, as vicars and vicegerents of Christ."

We believe there is, and always was, in every Christian church, (whether dependent on the Bishop of Rome or not,) an outward priesthood ordained by Jesus Christ, and an outward sacrifice offered therein, by men authorized to act as ambassadors of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

On what grounds do you believe, that Christ has abolished the priesthood or sacrifice?

3. "That this papal hierarchy and prelacy which still continues in the Church of England, is of apostolical institution, and authorized thereby, though not by the written word."

We believe that the threefold order of Ministers (which you seem to mean by papal hierarchy and prelacy) is not only authorized by its apostolical institution, but also by the written word.

Yet we are willing to hear and weigh whatever reasons induce you to believe to the contrary.

You think, secondly, "That we ourselves give up some things as indefensible, which are defended by the same law and authority that establishes the things above-

mentioned; such as are many of the laws, customs, and practices of the ecclesiastical courts."

We allow, 1. That those laws, customs, and practices are really indefensible:

2. That there are acts of parliament, in defence of them: and also of the threefold order.

But will you show us, how it follows, either 1. That those things and these stand or fall together? Or, 2. That we cannot sincerely plead for the one, though we give up the other?

Do you not here quite overlook one circumstance, which might be a key to our whole behaviour? Namely, that we no more look upon these filthy abuses which adhere to our Church, as part of the building, than we look upon any filth which may adhere to the walls of Westminster Abbey, as a part of that structure.

You think, thirdly, "That there are other things which we defend and practice, in open contradiction to the orders of the Church of England. And this you judge to be a just exception against the sincerity of our professions to adhere to it."

Compare what we profess with what we practise, and you will possibly be of another judgment.

We profess, 1. That we will obey all the laws of that Church (such we allow the rubrics to be, but not the customs of the ecclesiastical courts) so far as we can with a safe conscience.

2. That we will obey, with the same restriction, the Bishops, as executors of those laws. But their bare will, distinct from those laws, we do not profess to obey at all.

Now point out, What is there in our practice, which, is an open contradiction to these professions?

Is field-preaching? Not at all. It is contrary to no law which we profess to obey.

The allowing Lay-Preachers? We are not clear that this is contrary to any such law. But if it is, this is one of the exempt cases; one wherein we cannot obey with a safe conscience. Therefore, be it right or wrong on other accounts, it is however no just exception against our sincerity.

The rules and directions given to our Societies? which, you say, is a discipline utterly forbidden by the Bishops.

When and where did any Bishop forbid this? And if

any did, By what law? We know not either the man, who ever did forbid, or the law by which he could forbid it.

The "allowing persons (for we require none to communicate at the chapel) in contradiction (you think) to all those rubrics which require all to attend always on their own parish church and pastor, and to receive only at his table?"

Which rubrics are those? We cannot find them. And till these are produced, all that is so frequently said of parochial unity, &c. is merely *gratis dictum*. Consequently, neither is this any just exception against the sincerity of any of our professions.

Dec. 30, 1745.

J. W.

Wednesday, January the 1st, 1746. I preached at four in the morning, on, "I am the Almighty God: walk before me, and be thou perfect." We dined with poor John Webb, now thoroughly poisoned by Robert Barclay's Apology, which he was sure would do him no hurt, till all his love to his brethren was swallowed up in dotage about questions and strife of words.

Wed. 8. I waited on Mr. B——e, Rector of —, who had sent to me, as soon as he had read the "Farther Appeal." He said, "Sir, all this is sad truth. But what can we do to help it?" I went afterwards to another Clergyman, who had likewise sent and desired to speak with me. How is this? I thought the publication of this Tract would have enraged the world above measure. And, on the contrary, it seems nothing ever was published, which softened them so much!

Mon. 13. I had a visit from Mr. S., an honest, zealous Anabaptist teacher. Finding he would dispute, I let him dispute, and held him to the point till between eleven and twelve o'clock. By that time he was willing to take breath. Perhaps he may be less fond of dispute for the time to come.

Mon. 20. I set out for Bristol. On the road I read over Lord King's account of the primitive Church. In spite of the vehement prejudice of my education, I was ready to believe that this was a fair and impartial draught; but if so, it would follow that Bishops and Presbyters are (essentially) of one order; and that originally every Christian congregation was a Church independent on all others!.

544 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

Tues. 21. I read Bishop Butler's Discourse on Analogy, a strong and well wrote treatise; but I am afraid far too deep for their understanding to whom it is primarily addressed.

Monday, February 3, and the following days, I visited several of the country societies.

Monday. 10. I preached at Paulton; on Thursday noon at Shepton-Mallet; and at Oak-Hill in the evening. The next morning I walked (it being scarce possible to ride, because of the frost) to Coleford.

Sun. 16. I took my leave of Bristol and Kingswood; and on Monday, 17th, set out for Newcastle.

I preached near Thornbury about noon; and in the evening at Wall-Bridge, near Stroud.

Tues. 18. We pushed on through thick and thin, and with much difficulty got to Stanley. Thence, after an hour's stop, we hastened on. The brooks were so swollen with the late rains, that the common roads were impassable; but our guide, knowing the country, carried us round about through the fields, so that we escaped the dangerous waters; and soon after sunset came (wet and dirty enough) to Evesham.

Wed. 19. We rode to Birmingham, where many of our brethren from several parts met us in the evening.

Thur. 20. We set out as soon as it was light. Before we came to Aldridge-Heath, the rain changed into snow, which the northerly winds drove full in our faces, and crusted us over from head to foot in less than an hour's time. We inquired of one who lived at the entrance of the moors, which was our best way to Stafford. "Sir," said he, "'tis a thousand pounds to a penny that you do not come there to-day. Why, 'tis four long miles to the far side of this common, and in a clear day I am not sure to go right across it; and now all the roads are covered with snow, and it snows so that you cannot see before you." However, we went on, and I believe did not get ten yards out of the way till we came into Stafford.

In the evening we reached Roger Moss's house. I preached on Rom. iii. 22, and joined a few together as a Society.

Fri. 21. We breakfasted at Bradbury-Green, whence we rode on to Marsden; and the next day, Saturday, 22d, to Leeds. I preached at five. As we went home a great mob followed, and threw whatever came to hand. I was

struck several times,—once or twice in the face,—but not hurt at all. I walked on to the Recorder's, and told him the case. He promised to prevent the like for the time to come.

Sun. 23. I preached at eight without any interruption; in Birstal at one, and again at five.

Mon. 24. I preached at Skircoat-Green, near Halifax, to a whole company of Quakers. The good man of the house, about fourscore years old, had formerly been a speaker among them; but from fear of man he desisted, and so quenched the Spirit, that he was in darkness for near forty years; till hearing John Nelson declare the love of God in Christ, light again sprung up in his soul. In the evening I preached to a quiet congregation at Bradford.

Tues. 25. About nine I began at Keighley: thence (finding the snow was so deep I could not go through the vales) I went the straight way, and came to Newcastle Wednesday, 26th.

Fri. 28. I took my leave of Katy Parks, calmly waiting till her change should come. A day or two after she had her desire, sweetly giving up her soul to God.

Of the same spirit was the writer of the following letter:—

“DEAR SIR,

“February 22, 1745.

“You may remember to have seen me at Oxford once. Since then, by walking somewhat different from the ways of the world, I have incurred the displeasure of the world; and I have gone through many trials. My friends and nearest relations have done their utmost to separate me from God and his children; but, blessed be our dear Lord, all their attempts have hitherto been in vain. Of late they have seemed resolved on other measures; namely, to separate me from themselves; but, notwithstanding all their threats, I hope, by the power of God, to remain unshaken to the end. I would willingly suffer the loss of all things, rather than deny the Lord that bought me; and I am persuaded, that neither life nor death shall ever separate me from his love.

“The sum of all my desires and hopes in this world, for many years, has been this, To be regularly sent as an ambassador of Christ. I long to spend and be spent for the best of masters; but I doubt my relations have dis-

546 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

appointed me of this; for Oxford knows my place no more.

"My uncle sees that nobody can do his business better, or perhaps so well, as myself; but he can't bear a Methodist in his house. He wants to have me of his own taste; but as I have been washed, I cannot, I dare not, I will not, by the grace of God, turn to my former wallowing in the mire.

"Dear Sir, you see my case. There is nothing I so much long for as to be employed in the Lord's vineyard, though utterly unworthy. I should be glad to be advised and directed by you what to do. I will do whatsoever you judge most proper toward the promoting our Saviour's interest. I am happy in his love, and

"Your most obedient Servant,

"JOHN BOSWORTH.

But there was no need for his taking thought for the morrow; for in a few weeks God took him to himself.

Saturday, March 1. I visited the sick, who increased daily in every quarter of the town. It is supposed that two thousand of the soldiers only have died since their encampment: the fever or flux sweeping them away by troops, in spite of all the physicians could do.

Wed. 5. I preached at Wickham at noon; in the evening at Spen; the next day at Burnupfield; and on Saturday, 8th, in the Square at Placey. A vehement storm began in the middle of the sermon, which was driven full upon us by the north-east wind; but the congregation regarded it not.

Sun. 9. Was a day of solemn joy; yet, in the afternoon, I felt a great damp, occasioned by my neglecting to speak plainly to some who were deceiving their own souls. I do not wonder at the last words of St. Augustine and Archbishop Usher, "Lord, forgive me my sins of omission."

I preached on Monday at Horseley; on Tuesday at Biddick; and on Wednesday, 12th, at Sunderland, where I endeavoured to bring the little Society into some kind of order. In the afternoon, being at Mrs. Fenwick's, and seeing a child there of ten or twelve years old, I asked, "Does your daughter know Christ, or know she has need of him?" She replied with much concern, "I fear not: nothing has ever affected her at all." Immediately that

word came into my mind, "Before they call, I will answer." I was going to say, "Come, let us call upon God, to show her she has need of a Saviour;" but before the words were pronounced, the child turned away her face, and began crying as if she would break her heart. I could get no word from her but, "My sins, my sins!" We then besought God to carry on his own work.

Mon. 17. I took my leave of Newcastle, and set out with Mr. Downes and Mr. Shepherd; but when we came to Smeton, Mr. Downes was so ill, that he could go no further. When Mr. Shepherd and I left Smeton, my horse was so exceeding lame, that I was afraid I must have lain by too. We could not discern what it was that was amiss; and yet he would scarce set his foot to the ground. By riding thus seven miles, I was thoroughly tired, and my head ached more than it had done for some months. (What I here aver is the naked fact: let every man account for it as he sees good.) I then thought, "Cannot God heal either man or beast by any means, or without any?" Immediately my weariness and head-ache ceased, and my horse's lameness in the same instant. Nor did he halt any more either that day or the next. A very odd accident this also!

Tues. 18. I rode to Pontefract; on Wednesday to Epworth; and on Thursday, by Barley-Hall, to Sheffield. I was glad of having an opportunity here of talking with a child I had heard of. She was convinced of sin some weeks before by the words of her elder brother, (about eight years of age,) dying as an hundred years old, in the full triumph of faith. I asked her abruptly, "Do you love God?" She said, "Yes; I do love him with all my heart." I said, "Why do you love him?" She answered, "Because he has saved me." I asked, "How has he saved you?" She replied, "He has taken away my sins." I said, "How do you know that?" She answered, "He told me himself on Saturday, Thy sins are forgiven thee; and I believe him: and I pray to him without a book. I was afraid to die; but now I am not afraid to die; for if I die, I shall go to him."

Fri. 21. I came to Nottingham. I had long doubted what it was which hindered the work of God here; but, upon inquiry, the case was plain. So many of the Society were either triflers or disorderly walkers, that the blessing of God could not rest upon them; so I made short work,

cutting off all such at a stroke, and leaving only that little handful who (as far as could be judged) were really in earnest to save their souls.

Sat. 22. I came to Wednesbury. The Antinomian teachers had laboured hard to destroy this poor people.

Sun. 23. I talked an hour with the chief of them, Stephen Timmins. I was in doubt whether pride had not made him mad. An uncommon wildness and fierceness in his air, his words, and the whole manner of his behaviour, almost induced me to think God had for a season given him up into the hands of Satan.

In the evening, I preached at Birmingham. Here another of their pillars, J—— W——d, came to me, and, looking over his shoulder, said, "Don't think I want to be in your Society; but if you are free to speak to me, you may." I will set down the conversation, dreadful as it was, in the very manner wherein it passed, that every serious person may see the true picture of Antinomianism full grown; and may know what these men mean by their favourite phrase of being "Perfect in Christ, not in themselves."

"Do you believe you have nothing to do with the law of God?" I have not; I am not under the law; I live by faith. "Have you, as living by faith, a right to every thing in the world?" I have. All is mine, since Christ is mine. "May you then take any thing you will, any where, (suppose out of a shop,) without the consent or knowledge of the owner?" I may, if I want it; for it is mine: only I will not give offence. "Have you also a right to all the women in the world?" Yes, if they consent. "And is not that a sin?" Yes, to him that thinks it is a sin; but not to those whose hearts are free. The same thing that wretch, Roger Ball, affirmed in Dublin. Surely these are the first-born children of Satan!

Tues. 25. I preached at Evesham; Wednesday, 26th, about ten, at Stanley; in the afternoon at the Friars, in Gloucester. I preached at Wallbridge, near Stroud, in the evening; and on Thursday, 27th, rode to Bristol.

Thursday, April 3. I spent an agreeable hour with our old fellow-labourer, Mr. Humphreys. I found him open and friendly, but rigorously tenacious of the unconditional decrees. O that opinions should separate chief friends! This is bigotry all over.

Mon. 7. I preached at Kingswood, on Isaiah lx. the

17th and following verses, and laid the first stone of the new house there. In the evening I rode (with Mr. Shepherd) to Bath; and Tuesday, the 8th, to Newbury. Here we met with several of the little Society in Blewbury, some of whom were truly alive to God. What a proof is this that God sends by whom He will send! Who hath begotten us these. David Jeffries!

Wed. 9. In the evening I preached at Brentford. Many were got together there who threatened great things. I went and took one or two of their chiefs by the hand, and desired them to come in. They did so, and were calm and silent. It was a season of great refreshment. The next morning we rode to London.

1st the afternoon I buried the body of Ann Clowney, a poor woman whom many could never think to be a believer, because she was a fool: (one of exceeding weak understanding, though not directly a natural.) But in the time of sickness and pain, none could deny the work of God. Neither did she die as a fool dieth.

Tues. 22. I rode with Mr. Piers to see one who called himself a Prophet. We were with him about an hour; but I could not at all think that he was sent of God. 1. Because he appeared to be full of himself, vain, heady, and opinionated. 2. Because he spoke with extreme bitterness both of the King, and of all the Bishops, and all the Clergy. 3. Because he aimed at talking Latin, but could not; plainly showing he understood not his own calling.

Wed. 23. At the earnest request of a friend, I visited Matthew Henderson, condemned for murdering his mistress. A real, deep work of God seemed to be already begun in his soul. Perhaps, by driving him too fast, Satan has driven him to God; to that repentance which shall never be repented of.

About this time I received a letter from John Nelson, whom I had left at Birmingham; part of which was as follows:—

"Birstal, April 22, 1746.

"AFTER I left Wednesbury I stayed two nights at Nottingham, and had large congregations; but while I was meeting the Society the second night, there came a mob, raging as if they would pull the house to the ground. As soon as we had done meeting, the Constable came and seized me, and said I must go before the Mayor for

making a riot; so he took me by the arm, and led me through the streets, the mob accompanying us with curses and huzzas. God gave me, as we went, to speak very plain to the Constable, and to all that were near me, till one cried out, 'Don't carry him to the Mayor, for he is a friend to the Methodists, but to Alderman——.' Upon this he turned, and led me to the Alderman's. When we were brought in he said, 'Sir, I have brought you another Methodist Preacher.' He asked my name; and then said, 'I wonder you cannot stay at home. You see the mob won't suffer you to preach in this town.' I said, 'I did not know this town was governed by the mob. Most towns are governed by the Magistrates.' He said, 'What, do you expect us to take your parts, when you take the people from their work?' I said, 'Sir, you are wrong informed. We preach at five in the morning and seven at night; and these are the hours when most people are in their beds in the morning, and at night either at play or at the alehouse.' Then he said, 'I believe you are the cause of all the evil that is fallen upon the nation.' I said, 'What reason have you to believe so? Can you prove that one Methodist in England did assist the rebels with either men, money, or arms?' He answered, 'No; but it has been observed, that there has been always such a people before any great evil fell upon the land.' I said, 'It hath been as you say; but that people was not the cause of the evil no more than we are at this time: but these mobbers, and swearers, and drunkards, and whore-mongers, and extortioners, and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; these are the cause why God afflicteth both man and beast: not we: we are sent to persuade them to break off their sins by repentance, that the heavy judgments of God may not consume such a people; and if there be not a general reformation, God will be avenged of such a nation as this.' Then he said, 'Do not preach here;' but God opened my mouth, and I did not cease to set life and death before him. The Constable began to be uneasy, and said, 'What must we do with him?' 'Well,' he said, 'I understand he is for leaving the town to-morrow; I think you must take him to your house.' But he desired to be excused. Then the Justice said, 'You may go where you came from.' When I had gone a little way through the mob, he came to the door, and called, 'Mr. Nelson, stop a little.' Then he ordered the

Constable to conduct me to the house he fetched me from, and take care that the mob did not hurt me. This seemed to be a great mortification to him; but he was obliged to do it. So he brought me to our brethren again; and left us to give thanks to God for all his mercies."

Sunday, May 4. We left London in the evening; and on Tuesday came to Bristol.

Mon. 12. I dined with a gentleman who is fully persuaded that there is no such thing as virtue or happiness upon earth. "Having found, he said, by repeated experiments, that, notwithstanding a thousand fair appearances, every man living was, at the bottom, wholly selfish and truly miserable." I should not wonder if every rational Deist were of the same mind. Nay, they must, if consistent with themselves. For it is sure all men are both miserable and selfish, whatever show they may make, who have not faith, even that "evidence of things not seen," the very being whereof they question.

Thur. 15. I preached at Bath; and, setting out at three the next morning, in the evening came to Blewbury.

In riding, I read Dr. H.'s "Lectures on the First Chapters of St. Matthew." Are they not more strange than true? Here are the first elements of the Gospel of the Mystics! But is this the Gospel of Christ?

I preached, in the evening, on Rom. i. 16, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" and, setting out early in the morning, Saturday, 17th, in the evening came to London.

Mon. 19. I saw an amazing instance of distress. A sensible young woman, (no Methodist,) constantly attending her church, had all her life long believed herself to be a right good Christian; and in this persuasion she continued during a violent fever, till the physician told her brother she must die; on which she cried out, "So my brother and you are going to heaven, and I am going to hell." Her brother said, "From that hour she was in the agony of despair, saying, she was in hell already; she felt the flames; the Devil had her soul and body, and was now tearing her in pieces. If she swallowed any thing, she cried out she was swallowing fire and brimstone; and for twelve days she took nothing at all,—for above twenty, nothing but water. She had no sleep day or night; but

lay cursing and blaspheming, tearing her clothes, and whatever she could reach, in pieces. The sins which lay heaviest upon her were, the having no knowledge or love of God; the not believing in Christ; and yet having persuaded herself and others that she was a good Christian." She was quieter from the time we prayed with her first, and left off cursing and blaspheming. In a few days after, she began to drink a little tea, though still remaining in settled despair; but afterwards God turned her heaviness into joy.

Fri. 23. I made over the houses in Bristol and Kingswood, and, the next week, that at Newcastle, to seven Trustees, reserving only to my brother and myself the liberty of preaching and lodging there.

Fri. 30. I light upon a poor, pretty, fluttering thing, lately come from Ireland, and going to be a singer at the play-house. She went in the evening to the Chapel, and thence to the watch-night, and was almost persuaded to be a Christian. Her convictions continued strong for a few days; but then her old acquaintance found her, and we saw her no more.

Saturday, June 7. I asked Richard Langman and his wife how they recovered from their German delusion. She said, "None could ever have delivered us from them but themselves; for there is no fence against their soft words. But one or two of their sermons opened our eyes; particularly one, wherein the Preacher was describing how the Virgin 'fed the dear little Lamb with papp; and how, when he grew bigger, she might send him of an errand, perhaps for a porringer of milk, which, if he happened to let fall, he might work a miracle to mend the porringer.'" They were not then able to digest these things; but now they never turn their stomach at all.

In the afternoon, an old friend (now with the Moravians) laboured much to convince me, that I could not continue in the Church of England, because I could not implicitly submit to her determinations; "for this (he said) was essentially necessary to the continuing in any Church." Not to the continuing in any but that of the Brethren: if it were, I could be a member of no Church under heaven; for I must still insist on the right of private judgment. I dare call no man Rabbi. I cannot yield either implicit faith or obedience to any man or number of men under heaven.

Fri. 13. I was desired to visit a poor sinner who had just made his fortune on board a privateer, and was preparing to enjoy it, when he was summoned of God to rise and go hence. I found God had shown him terrible things, and had afterwards cut the work short in his soul : for he already knew in whom he had believed ; and a few days after slept in peace.

Mon. 16. I had an hour's conversation with Mr. Simpson, (not the same with him above-mentioned,) a man of a clear head and a loving heart. But, O the abyss of the providence of God ! I saw him some time after in a fever. Before this intermitted, the bark was poured in upon him. He was cured of his fever, and deprived of his senses, and has been confined ever since. Is it not the Methodists who have driven this man also distracted ?

Sat. 28. I inquired more particularly of Mrs. Nowens, concerning her little son. She said, " He appeared to have a continual fear of God, and an awful sense of his presence ; that he frequently went to prayers by himself, and prayed for his father, and many others by name ; that he had an exceeding great tenderness of conscience, being sensible of the least sin, and crying and refusing to be comforted, when he thought he had in any thing displeased God ; that a few days since he broke out into prayer aloud, and then said, " Mama, I shall go to heaven soon, and be with the little angels ; and you will be there too, and my papa ; but you will not go so soon ; " that, the day before, he went to a little girl in the house, and said, " Polly, you and I must go to prayers. Don't mind your doll : kneel down now : I must go to prayers : God bids me. " When the Holy Ghost teaches, is there any delay in learning ? This child was then just three years old ! A year or two after he died in peace.

Wed. July 2. I received the following letter from that amiable man, who is now with God :—

" Northampton, June 29, 1746.

" REV. AND DEAR SIR,

" I AM truly glad that the long letter I last sent you was agreeable to you. I bless God that my prejudices against the writers of the Establishment were so early removed and conquered ; and I greatly rejoice when I see in those whom, upon other accounts, I must highly esteem as the excellent of the earth, that their prejudices against their

brethren of any denomination are likewise subdued, and that we are coming nearer to the harmony in which I hope we shall ever be one in Christ Jesus.

"I have always esteemed it to be the truest act of friendship to use our mutual endeavours to render the characters of each other as blameless and as valuable as possible; and I have never felt a more affectionate sense of my obligations, than when those worthy persons who have honoured me with their affection and correspondence have freely told me what they thought amiss in my temper and conduct. This, therefore, dear Sir, is an office which you might reasonably expect from me, if I had for some time enjoyed an intimate knowledge of you; but it has always been a maxim with me not to believe any story to the prejudice of those whom I had apparent reason, from what I knew of them, to esteem; and, consequently, as I should never make this a foundation, you must be contented to wait longer before you will be likely to receive that office of fraternal love which you ask from,

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

"Your obliged and affectionate Brother and Servant,

"P. DODDRIDGE."

"Your caution has suggested a thought to me, whether it be modest to call ourselves humble. If the expression means, a real readiness to serve in love, in any thing low, as washing the feet of another, I hope I can say, 'I am your humble Servant;' but if it means one who is, in all respects, as humble as he could wish; God forbid I should arrogate so proud a title. In what can I say, I have already attained? Only, I love my divine Master, and I would not have a thought in my heart that He should disapprove. I feel a sweetness in being assuredly in His gracious hand, which all the world cannot possibly afford, and which I really think would make me happier in a dark dungeon than ten thousand worlds could make me without it; and, therefore, I love every creature on earth that bears his image; and I do not except those who, through ignorance, rashness, or prejudice, have greatly injured me."

Sun. 6. After talking largely with both the men and women Leaders, we agreed it would prevent great expense, as well of health as of time and of money, if the poorer people of our Society could be persuaded to leave

off drinking of tea. We resolved ourselves to begin and set the example. I expected some difficulty in breaking off a custom of six-and-twenty years' standing; and, accordingly, the three first days my head ached, more or less, all day long; and I was half asleep from morning to night. The third day, on Wednesday in the afternoon, my memory failed almost entirely. In the evening I sought my remedy in prayer. On Thursday morning my head-ache was gone: my memory was as strong as ever; and I have found no inconvenience, but a sensible benefit in several respects, from that very day to this.

Thur. 17. I finished the little collection which I had made among my friends for a lending-stock. It did not amount to thirty pounds, which a few persons afterwards made up to fifty; and by this inconsiderable sum above two hundred and fifty persons were relieved in one year.

Mon. 21. I set out for Salisbury, where, to my utter amazement, on Wednesday, 23d, Mr. Hall desired me to preach. Was his motive only to grace his own cause? Or, rather, was this the last gasp of expiring love?

I did not reach Bristol till Friday, 25th. On Sunday, 27th, I preached at Baptist-Mills, to the largest congregation I had seen at that place since I was there with Mr. Whitefield.

About this time I received a melancholy letter from abroad, part of which I have subjoined.

"Meerkirk, in Holland, July 29, 1746.

"I HAVE for some years endeavoured to keep a conscience void of offence toward God and toward man; and for above two years I have known that God, for Christ's sake, had forgiven me all my sins. I lived in the full assurance of faith, which made me rejoice in all states. Wet or weary, cold or hungry, I could rejoice. And faith and love did increase so fast, that it was my soul's delight to do good to them that hated me, to bless them that cursed me, and to call all those that were in a perishing condition to accept of life and salvation. But, O how are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

* April 6, 1746, I was overcome by a great temptation: it came as quick as lightning. I know not if I was well in my senses; but I fell. I rose the same moment, and called upon my offended God; and so I have done ever since. But, notwithstanding, his Spirit has departed from

556 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

me. I have wounded my conscience exceedingly. I am fallen into the spirit of bondage and fear; and I often cry out,

‘Who shall tell me if the strife
In heaven or hell shall end?’”

Monday, August 4. I received a letter from Yorkshire, part of which was in these words:—

“ON Wednesday, July 16th, I called on good old Mr. Clayton. He was exceeding weak, and seemed like one that had not long to continue here. I called again on Monday, 21st, and found him very ill. He told me no one else should have been admitted; that he had much to say to me to tell you, and desired me to send his kind respects to you, and wished you prosperity in your pious undertakings. Finding he was not able to talk much, I took my leave, not thinking it would be the last time; but when I returned into these parts on Saturday last, I found he died that morning between two and three. On Monday last I went to his burial, and I was unexpectedly made mourner for my good old friend. I followed his corpse to the ground, where I saw it solemnly interred. Many of his parishioners dropped tears, he having been a father to the poor. He died very poor, though he had an estate of forty pounds a year, and a living of near three hundred, of which he has been Rector three-and-forty years.”

Wed. 6. I preached at Oak-Hill. How is this? I have not known so many persons earnestly mourning after God, of any Society of this size in England, and so unblameable in their behaviour: and yet not one person has found a sense of the pardoning love of God, from the first preaching here to this day!

When I mentioned this to the Society, there was such a mourning as one would believe should pierce the clouds. My voice was quickly drowned. We continued crying to God with many loud and bitter cries, till I was constrained to break away between four and five, and take horse for Shepton.

Here the good Curate (I was informed) had hired a silly man, with a few other drunken champions, to make a disturbance. Almost as soon as I began, they began screaming out a psalm; but our singing quickly swallowed up theirs. Soon after, their orator named a text, and (as they termed it) preached a sermon; his attendants mean-

time being busy (not in hearing him, but) in throwing stones and dirt at our brethren: those of them, I mean, who were obliged to stand at the door. When I had done preaching, I would have gone out to them; it being my rule, confirmed by long experience, always to look a mob in the face. * But our people took me up whether I would or no, and carried me into the house. The rabble melted away in a quarter of an hour, and we walked home in peace.

Thur. 7. The venerable old man, Mr. Tindal, called upon me once more. How strange is it, to find one of fourscore and ten, as humble and teachable as a little child!

* Sun. 10. In the evening, having determined to spend a little time in Wales, I rode to S. Crocker's, to be ready for the first passage in the morning. On Monday, 11th, we came to the water-side, at half an hour after five: but we did not pass till near twelve, and then rode on to Abergavenny. Mr. Philips afterwards met us on the road, and brought us to a friend's house between nine and ten.

Tues. 12. I preached at Maesmennys church, and, in the afternoon, in Builth church-yard. The greatest part of the town was present there, as usual; and God gave us the usual blessing.

Wed. 13. I preached at Lanzufried. As soon as we came out of the church, a poor woman met us, whom Satan had bound in an uncommon manner for several years. She followed us to the house where our horses were, weeping, and rejoicing, and praising God. Two Clergymen were there, besides me, and the house was full of people. But she could not refrain from declaring before them all, what God had done for her soul. And the words which came from the heart, went to the heart. I scarce ever heard such a preacher before. All were in tears round about her, high and low; for there was no resisting the Spirit by which she spoke.

* The odd account she gave of herself was this: (concerning which let every one judge as he pleases :) "That near seven years since she affronted one of her neighbours, who thereupon went to Francis Morgan, (a man famous in those parts,) and gave him fourteen shillings to do his worst to her; that the next night, as soon as she was in bed, there was a sudden storm of thunder, lightning, and

rain, in the midst of which she felt all her flesh shudder, and knew the Devil was close to her; that at the same time a horse she had in the stable below, which used to be as quiet as a lamb, leaped to and fro, and tore in such a manner, that she was forced to rise and turn him out; that a tree which grew at the end of the house, was torn up by the roots; that from thenceforth she had no rest, day or night, being not only in fear and horror of mind, but in the utmost torment of body, feeling as if her flesh was tearing off with burning pincers; that till this day she had never had any respite or ease; but now she knew God had delivered her, and she believed he would still deliver her body and soul, and bruise Satan under her feet."

At three in the afternoon I preached at Builth, designing to go from thence to Carmarthen. But notice having been given, by a mistake, of my preaching at Leominster in Herefordshire, I altered my design, and going to Llanfrynion that night, the next day rode to Leominster.

At six in the evening, I began preaching on a tombstone, close to the south side of the church. The multitude roared on every side; but my voice soon prevailed, and more and more of the people were melted down, till they began ringing the bells. But neither thus did they gain their point, for my voice prevailed still. Then the organs began to play amain. Mr. C., the Curate, went into the church, and endeavoured to stop them; but in vain. So I thought it best to remove to the Corn-Market. The whole congregation followed, to whom many more were joined, who would not have come to the church-yard. Here we had a quiet time, and I showed what that sect is, which is every where spoken against. I walked with a large train to our inn: but none, that I heard, gave us one ill word. A Quaker followed me in and told me, "I was much displeased with thee, because of thy 'Last Appeal;' but my displeasure is gone. I heard thee speak, and my heart clave to thee."

Fri. 15. I preached at five to a large company of willing hearers. We breakfasted with a lovely old woman, worn out with sickness and pain, but full of faith and love, and breathing nothing but prayer and thanksgiving.

About ten we came to Kington, three hours' ride (which they call eight miles) from Leominster. I preached at one end of the town: the congregation divided itself into two

parts. One half stood near, the other part remained a little way off, and lowered defiance. But the bridle from above was in their mouth, so they made no disturbance at all.

At four, we had another kind of congregation at Maes-mennys; many who had drank largely of the grace of God. I examined them, "Do ye now believe?" And the word was as a two-edged sword. After taking a sweet leave of this loving people, we rode with honest John Price of Mertha, to his house. We had four hours' rain in the morning, but a fair, mild afternoon, in the close of which we came to Cardiff.

Sun. 17. I preached at Wenvo church morning and afternoon: at five in the evening in the Castle-yard at Cardiff, to the far largest congregation which I had ever seen in Wales. All stood uncovered and attentive, and, I trust, few went empty away.

Mon. 18. I rode with Mr. Hodges to Neath. Here I found twelve young men, whom I could almost envy. They lived together in one house, and continually gave away whatever they earned above the necessities of life. Most of them (they told me) were Predestinarians, but so little bigoted to their opinion, that they would not suffer a Predestinarian to preach among them, unless he would lay all controversy aside. And on these terms they gladly received those of the opposite opinion.

The multitude of people obliged me to preach in the street, on, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel." One man would fain have interrupted, and had procured a drunken fidler for his second. But finding none to join them, they were ashamed; so the gentleman stole away on one side, and the fidler on the other.

Tues. 19. I preached again at five. Whatever prejudice remained, now vanished away as a dream, and our souls took acquaintance with each other, as having all drank into one spirit.

About ten I preached in my return at Margum, on, "By grace ye are saved, through faith." There being many present, who did not well understand English, one repeated to them in Welsh, the substance of what I had said. At one we came to Bridge-End, where I preached on a small green, not far from the church, on, "Jesus Christ, made of God unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." It being the time of the

yearly revel, we had many strangers from all parts. But none behaved unseemly; none opened his mouth; for the fear of God was amongst them. In the evening I preached at Fonmon Castle, on the fruits of the Spirit: I concluded the day with the little Society there, rejoicing and praising God.

Wed. 20. I preached near Wilton, a little town about a mile from Cowbridge: and on Thursday at Lanmais, four miles from Fonmon, to a people of a simple, loving, child-like spirit.

Fri. 22. I returned to Cardiff, and spoke plain to those who were wise in their own eyes. This, however, was matter of joy: they were willing to receive reproof. Otherwise I should have feared that, with regard to them, I had laboured in vain.

Sat. 23. Returning to Bristol, I found poor C. G. there proclaiming open war. He had preached at S— G—'s once or twice; but I believe had done neither good nor harm. I invited him to lodge at our house; but he did not choose it. O poor head! and honest heart!

Fri. 29. I talked largely with S— F—, and took from her the following account:—

“On Saturday, July 15, 1743, S— T—, then about ten years and three quarters old, waked in perfect health. She had never had any fits of any kind, nor any considerable sickness. About six in the morning she was rising, and inwardly praying to God, when on a sudden she was seized with a violent trembling. Quickly after she lost her speech: in a few minutes her hearing: then her sight, and at the same time all sense and motion.

“Her mother immediately sent for Mrs. Designe, to whom she then went to school. At the same time her father sent for Mr. Smith, apothecary, who lived near. At first, he proposed bleeding her immediately, and applying a large blister. But upon examining her farther he said, ‘It signifies nothing, for the child is dead.’

“About twelve o’clock she began to stir; then she opened her eyes, and gave the following account:—

“‘As soon as I lost my senses, I was in a dismal place, full of briers, and pits, and ditches, stumbling up and down, and not knowing where to turn, or which way to get either forward or backward; and it was almost quite dark, there being but a little faint twilight, so that I could

scarce see before me. I was crying ready to break my heart; and a man came to me and said, "Child, where are you going?" I said, I could not tell. He said, "What do you want?" I answered, I want Christ to be my refuge. He said, "What is your name?" And I told him. But I did not tell him S— T—. I told him a name which I never heard before. He said, "You are the child for whom I am sent. You are to go with me." I saw it grew lighter as he spoke. We walked together till we came to a stile. He went over, and bid me stay a little. I staid about half a quarter of an hour. And then I observed his clothes. They reached down to his feet, and were shining, and white as snow.

"Then he came back, and kneeled down and prayed. You never heard such a prayer in your life. Afterward he said, "Come with me." I went over the stile, and it was quite light. He brought me through a narrow lane, into a vast broad road, and told me, "This leads to hell; but be not afraid, you are not to stay there." At the end of that road a man stood clothed like the other, in white, shining clothes, which reached down to the ground. None could pass in or out without his knowledge. But he had not the key. The man that was with me carried the key, and unlocked the door, and we went in together.

"For a little way we walked straight forward: then turning to the left hand, we went down a very high, steep hill. I could scarce bear the stench and smoke of brimstone. I saw a vast many people, that seemed to be chained down, crying and gnashing their teeth. The man told me, the sins they delighted in once they are tormented with now. I saw a vast number who stood up cursing and blaspheming God, and spitting at each other. And many were making balls of fire, and throwing them at one another. I saw many others who had cups of fire, out of which they were drinking down flames. And others who held cards of fire in their hands, and seemed to be playing with them.

"We staid here, I thought, about half an hour. Then my guide said, "Come, I will show you now a glorious place." I walked with him till we came into a narrow road, in which we could hardly walk abreast. This brought us into a great broad place. And I saw the gate of heaven, which stood wide open; but it was so bright, I could not look at it long. We went straight in, and

walked through a large place, where I saw saints and angels: and through another large place, where were abundance more. They were all of one height and stature. And when one prayed they all prayed, when one sung they all sung. And they all sung alike, with a smooth, even voice, not one higher or lower than another.

"We went through this into a third place. There I saw God sitting upon his throne. It was a throne of light, brighter than the sun. I could not fix my eyes upon it. I saw three, but all as one. Our Saviour held a pen in his hand. A great book lay at his right side, another at his left, and a third partly behind him. In the first he set down the prayers and good works of his people. In the second he set down all the curses, and all the evil works of the wicked. I saw that he discerns the whole earth at a glance. And he discerns the whole heavens. At once he beholds earth and heaven with one look.

"Then our Lord took the first book in his hand, and went and said, "Father, Behold the prayers and the works of my people." And he held up his hands, and prayed, and interceded to his father for us. I never heard any voice like that. But I cannot tell how to explain it. And his father said, "Son, I forgive thy people; not for their sake, but thine." Then our Lord wrote it down in the third book, and returned to his throne rejoicing with the host of heaven.

"It seemed to me as if I stayed here several months. But I never slept all the while; and there was no night; and I saw no sky or sun, but clear light every where.

"Then we went back to a large door, which my guide opened, and we walked into pleasant gardens, by brooks and fountains. As we walked, I said, "I did not see my brother here;" (who died some time before;) he said, "Child, thou canst not know thy brother yet; because thy breath remains in thy body. Thy spirit is to return to the earth. Thou must watch and pray; and when thy breath leaves thy body, thou shalt come again hither, and be joined to these, and know every one as before." I said, "When is that to be?" He said, "I know not; nor any angel in heaven, but God alone."

"Then he took me into another pleasant garden, where were all manner of fruits. He told me, "This garden

bears fruit always." Here I saw a glorious place, which had large gold letters written over the door. He bid me read; and I read, "This is a fountain for sin and uncleanness for my people. At what time soever they will return, they shall be cleansed from all their idols." The door stood open, and I looked in, and I saw, as it were, a great cistern full of water, white as milk. We seemed to walk up and down in this garden for some weeks, and he told me what every thing meant. I never wanted to eat or drink, nor felt any weariness.

"While we were walking, he said, 'Sing.' I said, 'What shall I sing?' And he said, 'Sing praises unto the King of the place.' I sung several verses. Then he said, 'I must go.' I would have fain gone with him; but he said, 'Your time is not yet: you have more work to do upon the earth.' Immediately he was gone; and I came to myself and began to speak."

Her mother told me farther, "As soon as ever she recovered her speech, she gave me just the same account; adding, 'I have learned the finest hymn you ever heard in your life.' She then sung three verses, the most solid, awful words which I have ever heard. She continued speaking many awful words, with many sighs and tears: till about three in the afternoon, she fell into a slumber, which continued till seven. She then spoke the same things to Mrs. Designe; after which she was silent, till about five in the morning.

"She received remission of sins when she was nine years old, and was very watchful from that time. Since this trance, she has continued in faith and love, but has been very sickly and weak in body."

Monday, September 1. I rode with Mr. T. Butts, to Middlesey, and preached to a small earnest congregation. We set out early in the morning, and were thoroughly wet by noon. In the evening we reached Sticklepath.

Wed. 3. About one we came to Plymouth. After dinner I walked down to Herbert Jenkins, and with him to the Dock. In the way we overtook Mr. Mignon; then a pattern to all that believed. Herbert preached a plain, honest sermon. But the congregation was greatly displeased; and many went away as soon as he began, having come on purpose to hear me.

Thur. 4. Abundance of people from Plymouth were at

the room by half an hour after four. I was much refreshed in applying those words to them: "The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing." And many of us found our hearts knit together in that love which never faileth.

As many as the room could well contain, followed me to Mr. Hide's, and importuned me much to call again, in my return from Cornwall. We dined at Loo, (a town near half as large as Islington, which sends only four burgesses to the Parliament,) called at Grampond in the afternoon, and just at seven reached Gwenap. The congregation waiting, I began without delay, and found no faintness or weariness, while I expounded, "We all beholding, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Fri. 5. I inquired concerning John Trembath's late illness. It was a second relapse into the spotted fever; in the height of which they gave him sack, cold milk and apples, plums, as much as he could swallow. I can see no way to account for his recovery, but that he had not then finished his work. In the evening I preached at St. Ives.

Sat. 6. I rode to Trewillard, in the parish of St. Just. I found no Society in Cornwall so lively as this. Yet a few of them I was obliged to reprove for negligence in meeting, which is always the forerunner of greater evils.

I preached in the evening in the Green-Court, which was well filled with earnest hearers. I thought the house would have contained the congregation at five, (Sunday, 7,) but it would not. At eight I preached to a large congregation at Morva, and rode on to Zunnor before the Church service began. As soon as it was ended, I began near the church-yard (and surely never was it more wanted) to expound, "Whom ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." I preached at St. Ives about five, to a more understanding people, on, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God."

On Monday, 8th, I wrote the following letter to Mr. ———:

MY DEAR BROTHER,

ON Tuesday last, I lit upon a letter of yours in Devonshire, which I understand has been a great traveller. I

think it is the part of brotherly love, to mention to you some points therein, wherein I doubt whether you are not a little mistaken : if I mistake, you will set me right. You say,

1. "First as to stillness : The thing meant hereby is, that man cannot attain to salvation by his own wisdom, strength, righteousness, goodness, merits, or works ; that therefore when he applies to God for it, he is to cast away all dependance upon every thing of his own, and, trusting only to the mercy of God, through the merits of Christ, in true poverty of spirit, to resign himself up to the will of God, and thus quietly wait for his salvation." I conceive this to be the first mistake. I have nothing to object to this stillness. I never did oppose this in word or deed. But this is not the thing meant thereby, either by Molther, or the Moravians, or the English Brethren, at the time that I (and you, at Mr. Bowers') opposed them.

2. "That the Brethren teach, that people who are seeking after salvation, are all the while to sit still and do nothing ; that they are not to read, hear, or pray, is altogether false." This I apprehend to be a second mistake. Whatever the Brethren do now, they did teach thus, and that explicitly, in the years 1739 and 1740. In particular Mr. Brown, Mr. Bowers, Mr. Bell, Mr. Bray, and Mr. Simpson, then with the Moravians. Many of their words I heard with my own ears : many more I received from those who did so. And Mr. Molther himself, on December 31st, 1739, said to me in many and plain words, that the way to attain faith is, To be still ; that is,—

- Not to use (what we term) the means of grace ;
- Not to go to church ;
- Not to communicate ;
- Not to fast ;
- Not to use so much private prayer ;
- Not to read the Scriptures ;
- Not to do temporal good ; and,
- Not to attempt to do spiritual good.

These things I myself heard him speak ; as I am ready to give upon oath whenever required. You ought not therefore to say, "This is altogether false," on the bare denial of Mr. Molther, or any other.

3. "Some of Fetter-Lane Society, when the difference

broke out, spoke and acted very imprudently. But then to lay the blame on the Moravian Church, as if it were their fault, is quite wrong." I think so too; and have said so in my answer to Mr. Church, published some time before you sent your letter. If therefore you imagine, that I lay the blame on the Moravian Church, you are under a mistake here also: or if you think, I "lay the faults of one man upon a whole community."

4. "As to the English that really were to blame, they confessed their faults, and asked Mr. W.'s pardon. And some of them, if I mistake not, did it with tears." I really think you do mistake again. I remember no such thing. 'Fifty persons, and more, spoke bitter things concerning me. One or two asked my pardon for so doing, but in so slight and cursory a manner, that I do not so much as know, who were the men; neither the time or place, where it was done; so far were they from doing it with tears, or with any solemnity or earnestness at all. As for the rest, if they were ever convinced or ashamed at all, it is a secret to me to this day.

5. "Therefore to publish these things, which ought to have been buried in eternal oblivion, is what I do not like." This whole matter of asking pardon, you seem to mistake, as Count Z. did before. I wish you would consider the answer I gave him: "They asked my pardon for using me ill. I replied, that was superfluous. I was not angry with them; but I was afraid of two things. 1. That there was error in their doctrine. 2. That there was sin (allowed) in their practice. This was then and is at this day, the one question between them and me." Now this cannot be buried in oblivion. That error and sin have spread too far already; and it was my part, after private reproof had been tried again and again to no purpose, to give public warning thereof to all the world, that, if possible, they might spread no farther.

6. "Mr. W. is partial throughout his Journal." I want to know the particular instances. "In what he mentions of me, he does not represent our conversation rightly." Then it is the fault of my memory. But be so kind as to point out the particulars that are not rightly represented. "He has done the cause of our Saviour more mischief than any one else could have done." Tell me how? unless you mean, the Antinomian cause, by the cause of our Saviour. "I have several times gone to Mr.

W. to explain matters, and to desire him to be reconciled." Several times! When, and where? You surprise me much! Either my memory or yours fails strangely. "In truth, it is he that has stood out." Alas, my brother! what an assertion is this? Did I not come three years ago, (before that Journal was published,) in all haste, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and my brother, in five days, from the Land's-End, to a supposed conference in London? Was this standing out? But with what effect? Why Mr. Spangenberg had just left London. None besides had any power to confer with us. And to cut us off from any such expectation, James Hutton said, "They had orders not to confer at all, unless the Archbishop of Canterbury, or the Bishop of London, were present."

There cannot be under heaven a greater mistake than this, that I ever did stand out, or that I do so now. There has not been one day for these seven years last past, wherein my soul has not longed for union. And they have grossly abused your honest credulity, whoever have made you believe the contrary.

7. "Since Mr. Wesleys have published such stuff and inconsistencies, I cannot agree with them." My brother, make some of those inconsistencies appear, and it will be an act of solid friendship. But, "Time will manifest matters, and what is of God will stand, and what is of man will come to nought." Most true; and according to this sure rule, it has already appeared, whose work is of God; both at Bradford, at Horton, and in several towns, not far from your own neighbourhood.

8. The account you give of the Moravians in general, is the very same I had given before; viz., That next to those of our own Church, "who have the faith and love which is among them, without those errors either of judgment or practice, the body of the Moravian Church, however mistaken some of them, are, in the main, of all whom I have seen, the best Christians in the world." In the same Tract, I sum up my latest judgment concerning them in these terms: "I believe they love the Lord Jesus in sincerity, and have a measure of the mind that was in him. And I am in great earnest when I declare once more, that I have a deep, abiding conviction, by how many degrees the good which is among them over-balances the evil, and that I cannot speak of them but with tender affection, were it only for the benefits I have

568 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

received from them; and that at this hour I desire union with them (were those stumbling blocks once put away, which have hitherto made that desire ineffectual) above all things under heaven."

9. In what respects the Brethren are Antinomians, in what sense they lean to Quietism, I have spoken at large. If they refute the charge, I shall rejoice more than if I had gained great spoils.

My Brother, I heartily wish both you and them, the genuine, open Gospel-simplicity; that you may always use that artless plainness of speech, in which you once excelled; and that by manifestation of the truth, you may commend yourself to every man's conscience in the sight of God. I am

Your affectionate Brother,
J. W.

Tues. 9. I preached at Crowan. The night came upon us while I was speaking; but none offered to go away. Wednesday, 10th, I preached at Portkellis, in Wendron, to many more than the house could contain. W—— T——, of Sithney, rode with me to Gwenap: a constant companion of Mr. N——'s, so long as he would join with him in riot and drunkenness. But with his drunkenness ended Mr. N——'s friendship.

When he heard that one John O——n, a tinner was preaching, he went on purpose to make sport. But the word of God struck him to the earth. Yet he struggled in the toils; sometimes wanting to go again; sometimes resolving never to go any more. But one day, calling at his sister's, he took up a little girl, (about four years old,) and said, "They tell me you can sing hymns. Come, sing me an hymn." She began immediately:

" My soul, don't delay,
Christ calls thee away:
Rise! Follow thy Saviour, and bless the glad day!
No mortal doth know
What he can bestow;
What peace, love, and comfort,—go after him, go!"

He started up at once, and went to the preaching: and the same night he found peace to his soul.

Thur. 11. E—— T—— (W—— T——'s sister) rode with me to Cambourn. When she heard her brother was perverted, she went over to Sithney, on purpose to reclaim him. But finding neither fair words, nor hard names, nor

oaths, nor curses, nor blows would prevail, she went away, renouncing him and all that belonged to him, and fully resolved to see him no more.

Six weeks after she met him at Redruth, and desired him to step into a house. When they were sat down, she burst into tears, and said, "Brother, follow those men in God's name; and send me word when any of them preaches in your house, and I will come and hear him."

He asked, "How is this? How came you to be so changed?" She replied, "A fortnight ago I dreamed a man stood by me and said, 'Do not speak evil of these men; for they are the servants of God.' I said, 'What, are you one of them? I defy you all. I will keep to my church.' He said, 'And when you are at church, how are your thoughts employed; or even at the Lord's Table?' And he went on telling me all that was in my heart; and every word went through me; and I looked up, and saw him very bright and glorious; and I knew it was our Saviour; and I fell down at his feet; and then I waked."

The week after she went to Sithney, where Mr. M—— was preaching, and saying, "Is there any of you that has shut your doors against the messengers of God? How if our Lord shut the door of mercy against you?" She cried out, "It is I," and dropped down. Nor had she any rest till God made her a witness of the faith, which once she persecuted.

Sat. 13. I took my leave of our brethren of St. Ives, and between one and two in the afternoon began preaching before Mr Probis's house, at Bray, on "The promise which is given to them that believe." Many were there who had been vehement opposers; but from this time they opposed no more.

At six I preached at Sithney. Before I had done, the night came on; but the moon shone bright upon us. I intended, after preaching, to meet the Society; but it was hardly practicable, the poor people so eagerly crowding in upon us. So I met them all together, and exhorted them not to leave their first love.

Sun. 14. For the sake of those who came from far, I delayed preaching till eight o'clock. Many of Helstone were there, and most of those who, in time past, had signalized themselves by making riots; but the fear of

God was upon them : they all stood uncovered, and calmly attended from the beginning to the end.

About one I began preaching near Portkellis, to a much larger congregation; and about half an hour after ~~four~~ at Gwenap, to an immense multitude of people, on, "To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." I was at first afraid my voice would not reach them all, but without cause; for it was so strengthened that I believe thousands more might have heard every word. In the close of my sermon I read them the account of Thomas Hitchins's death; and the hearts of many burned within them, so that they could not conceal their desire to go to Him, and to be with Christ. At six we took horse, and about nine (having bright moonshine) reached St. Columb.

Mon. 15. A guide, meeting us at Camelford, conducted us to St. Mary Week. Mr. Bennet overtook us on the road, and Mr. Thompson came in soon after, having lost his way, and so picked up Mr. Meyrick and Butts, who were wandering they knew not where. It was the time of the yearly revel, which obliged me to speak very plain. Thence we rode to Lancastr, where was a much larger congregation, and of quite another spirit.

Tues. 16. I rode to Plymouth-Dock, and preached in the evening, and the next morning at five. A little after ten I began preaching in a meadow near Tavistock. In the afternoon we called at Sticklepath, and about nine at night came, weary enough, to Exeter.

Thur. 18. About one I preached at Beercrocomb. About five we reached Bridgewater. We expected much tumult here, the great vulgar stirring up the small; but we were disappointed. The very week before our coming, the Grand Jury had found the bill against the rioters who had so often assaulted Mary Lockyer's house. This, and the awe of God which fell upon them, kept the whole congregation quiet and serious.

Before I preached, my strength was quite exhausted, and I was exceeding feverish through mere fatigue; but, in riding to Middlesey, I revived; and in the morning, Friday, 19th, I rose quite well. "My strengtfr will I ascribe unto Thee."

After a long morning's ride, we came to Mr. Star's, at Waywick. Mr. S., a neighbouring gentleman, who not long since hired a mob to make a disturbance, coming in, Mrs. Star detained him till the time of preaching. He

seemed struck much more than the congregation. In the evening we came to Bristol.

Tues. 23. I went to Road, where the mob threatened loud. I determined however to look them in the face; and at twelve I cried to the largest congregation by far which I had ever seen in these parts, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found: call ye upon him while he is near." The despisers stood as men astonished, and neither spoke nor stirred till I had concluded my sermon.

Between five and six I preached at Bearfield: the next evening at Blewberry. While I was afterwards meeting the Society, one grievous backslider, who had been for some time as in the belly of hell, was struck to the earth and roared aloud. He ceased not till God restored the pearl he had lost. Does not our God abundantly pardon?

Thur. 25. I came to Wycombe. It being the day on which the Mayor was chosen, abundance of rabble, full of strong drink, came to the preaching, on purpose to disturb; but they soon fell out among themselves: so that I finished my sermon in tolerable quiet.

Fri. 26. Mr. B. went to the Mayor and said, "Sir, I come to inform against a common swearer. I believe he swore an hundred oaths last night; but I marked down only twenty." "Sir, said the Mayor, you do very right in bringing him to justice. What is his name?" He replied "R—— D——." "R—— D——!" answered the Mayor; "why that is my son!" "Yes, Sir," said Mr. B. "so I understand." "Nay, Sir," said he, "I have nothing to say in his defence. If he breaks the law, he must take what follows."

Sat. Oct. 4. My brother and I took up our cross, and talked largely with Mr. G.; but he still insisted, 1. That there was no repentance at all antecedent to saving faith. 2. That naked faith alone was the only condition of everlasting salvation. And, 3. That no works need be preached at all, neither were necessary either before or after faith.

We took horse at nine, and soon after one came to Sevenoaks. After refreshing ourselves a little, we went to an open place near the Free-School, where I declared to a large, wild company, "There is no difference; for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." They grew calmer and calmer till I had done, and then went

quietly away. As we returned, a poor Shimei came to meet us, bitterly cursing and blaspheming; but we walked straight on, and even his companions, the mob, neither laughed nor opened their mouth.

Sun. 5. I preached in the church at Shoreham morning and afternoon. The congregation seemed to understand just nothing of the matter; but God can give them understanding in his time.

Thur. 9. The day of public thanksgiving for the victory at Culloden was to us a day of solemn joy.

Sat. 11. I had the pleasure of spending an hour with Mr. P. He said, "I rejoiced greatly when the Count came over, hoping now I should understand the truth of the matter, and I went to hear him, full of expectation. His text was, 'Neither do I condemn thee.' He began, 'The Saviour says, I came not to destroy the law: but the fact is contrary; for he does destroy it. It is plain the law condemned this woman; but the Saviour does not condemn her. Again, the law commands to keep the Sabbath holy; but the Saviour did not keep it holy. Nay, God himself does not keep the law; for the law says, 'Put away all lying;' but God said, 'Nineveh shall be destroyed;' yet Nineveh was not destroyed." The whole sermon was of the same thread. I understood him well, and do not desire to hear him any more.

Sat. 26. I buried the body of George Adams, a child about twelve years old. He is the first of the children brought up at our School, whom God has called to himself. From the time God manifested his love to him, he was eminently of a meek and quiet spirit; and as he lived, so he died in sweet peace.

Saturday, November 1. I dined at J—— E——'s. Is not this a brand plucked out of the burning? Has there been one in our memory that so signalised himself as an enemy to all serious, inward religion? But it is past. He was going out on pleasure, as usual. His foot slipped, and as he was falling, a thought came, "What if, instead of falling to the earth, thou hadst now died and fallen into hell?" He heard and acknowledged the voice of God, and began to seek his face.

Wed. 12. In the evening, at the chapel, my teeth pained me much. In coming home, Mr. Spear gave me an account of the rupture he had had for some years, which, after the most eminent physicians had declared it incur-

able, was perfectly cured in a moment. I prayed, with submission to the will of God: my pain ceased, and returned no more.

Sun. 16. I was desired to pray with one in despair. I had never seen her before, but soon found she was a sensible woman, and well acquainted with the theory of religion; yet when I spoke to her some of the first principles of Christianity, she cried out, as if she had never heard them before. 'Here! He says, I may be saved! He says, God loves *me*! Christ died for *me*! And that I may live with him in heaven! O then, what is this world? What is life, what is pain! I do not care for it. Let me die; let me suffer any thing here, so I may but live with Christ in heaven.'

About this time I received a remarkable account from Grimsby in Lincolnshire.

"William Blow, John Melton, and Thomas Wilkinson, were going, on Friday last, in a boat on the sea, near Grimsby. John Melton could swim exceeding well, but William Blow not at all. When they were about half a league from the shore, they were both beat overboard. John Melton sunk to the bottom like a stone. William Blow sunk and rose several times, and was in the water near a quarter of an hour, before Thomas Wilkinson could get near him. At last he saw his hand above the water: he then struck down his boat hook at a venture, and caught him by the flap of his coat, and pulled him to the boat side. He was quite sensible, and said, 'Tommy, I am afraid you cannot get me in.' 'Nay then,' said Thomas, 'we will sink together, for I will not let thee go.' At last he did get him in, and brought him safe to land.

"We asked, 'How he could keep in the water so long, and not be drowned?' He said, 'God gave him that thought, to keep his mouth shut; and when he was almost choked, he gave a spring up, and got a little breath.' I asked him, 'How he felt himself when he was under water? If he was not afraid of death?' He answered, 'No: his soul was lifted up unto the Lord, and he freely resigned himself into his hands.'"

I received likewise from several of our brethren abroad, an account of the deliverance God had lately wrought for them.

"REV. SIR,

"*Bush of Brabant, Oct. 17.*

"I HAVE long had a desire to write, but had not an opportunity till we came to our winter-quarters. When we came over, we thought we should have had B. Haime with us, as formerly; but we were disappointed. We were about three weeks upon our march, and endured a great deal through the heat of the weather, and from want of water. At Villear camp, we lay so near the enemy, and were forced to mount so many guards, that we had hardly any time to ourselves, nor had J. Haime any time to meet with us. We left this camp in twelve or fourteen days' time, and wherever we marched, we had the French always in our view; only a few days, when we were marching through woods, and over high mountains. Coming back to Maestricht, at some camps we have lain so near the enemy, that their sentries and ours have taken snuff with one another; having then no orders to fire at or hurt each other. But the day we came off, we found it otherwise; for at eleven o'clock the night before, orders came for us to be ready to turn out an hour before day, which was the 30th of September. At day-break, orders came to our regiment, and Colonel Graham's, to advance about a mile and a half toward the French. We were placed in a little park, and Graham's regiment in another, to the right of us. We lay open to the French; only we cut down the hedge breast high, and filled it up with loose earth. Thus we waited for the enemy several hours, who came first with their right wing upon the Dutch, that were upon our left. They engaged in our sight, and fired briskly upon each other, cannon and small shot, for two hours; then the Dutch, being overpowered, gave way, and the French advanced upon us, and marched a party over the ditch, on the left of Graham's, and fell in upon them; notwithstanding our continual firing, both with our small arms and four pieces of cannon. So when the French had got past us, our regiment retreated, or we should have been surrounded. In our retreat, we faced about twice, and fired on the enemy, and so came off with little loss; though they fired after us with large cannon shot, I believe four-and-twenty pounders.

"We lost one brother of Graham's regiment, and two of ours. Andrew Paxton, shot dead in our retreat, and Mark Bend, who was wounded, and left on the field. The Lord gave us all on that day an extraordinary courage, and a

word to speak to our comrades, as we advanced toward the enemy, to tell them how happy they were that had made their peace with God. We likewise spoke to one another, while the cannon were firing, and we could all rely on God, and resign to his will.

"A few of us meet here twice a day; and, thanks be to God, his grace is still sufficient for us. We desire all our brethren to praise God on our behalf; and we desire all your prayers, that the Lord may give us to be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

"I remain

"Your loving brother,

"S. S."

Nearly the same account we received a few days before, in a camp near Maestricht. Part of this ran as follows:—

"Ever since the 22d of July, our army and the French have lain so close, and marched so close together, that we have expected them to come upon us almost every night, and have had, for many nights, strict orders not to take off our accoutrements, but to be ready to turn out at a minute's warning; and almost every day some of our out-guards have had skirmishes with them. On September 29th, at night, Prince Charles had intelligence that they designed to fall upon us with all their force. So we had orders to be ready, and at break of day our regiment and Graham's were ordered to march in the front of the army, with two Hessian, two Hanoverian, and a part of the Dutch. We marched a mile forward into little parks and orchards, a village being between us and our army. In this posture we remained about three hours, while their right wing was engaged with the Dutch, the cannon playing every where all this time. But we were all endued with strength and courage from God, so that the fear of death was taken away from us; and when the French came upon us, and overpowered us, we were troubled at our regiment's giving way, and would have stood our ground, and called to the rest of the regiment to stop and face the enemy, but to no purpose. In the retreat we were broke; yet after we had retreated about a mile, we rallied twice and fired again. When we came where we thought the army was, they were all gone; so we marched good part of the night, and the next day, about four o'clock,

576 Rev. John Wesley's Journal

we came to the camp. We left our brother Mark Bend in the field : whether he be dead or alive we cannot tell ; but the last of our brothers that spoke to him, after he was wounded, found him quite resigned to the will of God. We that He has spared a little longer, desire you to return thanks to God for all his mercies to us."

END OF VOL. I.

